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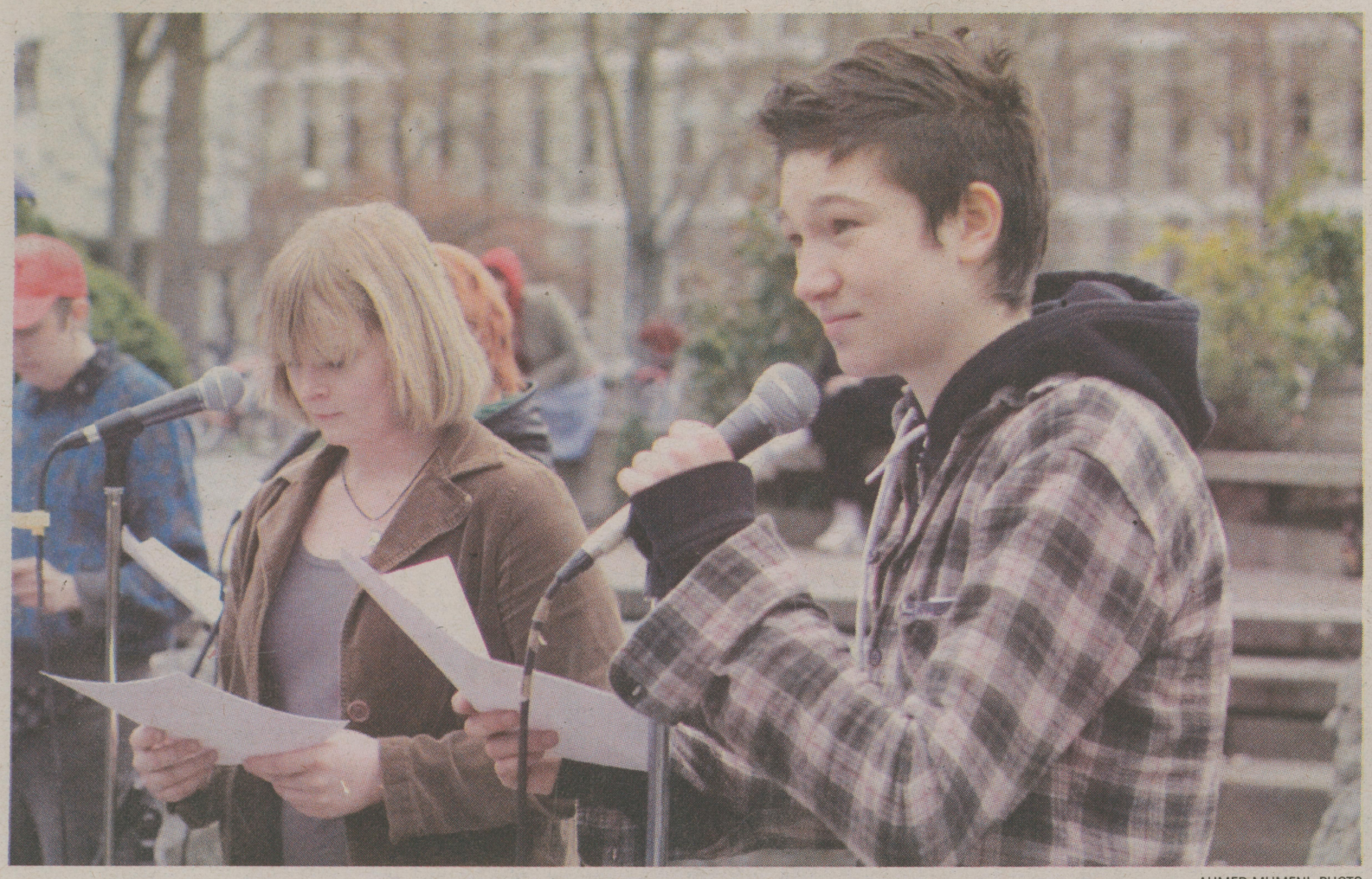

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

UVic student Chris Tuttle (left) and Anna Turje, a Women's Centre representative, address the crowd on campus March 25.

Groups call for end to hate

Resist Queer Bashing rally calls attention to teen murder in the U.S.

Trisha Gieni

Every year, people are killed because they refuse to identify with traditional gender stereotypes. Their stories are rarely heard, but the recent murder of an American high school student has brought the issue of violence to the forefront and created action within the UVic community.

Lawrence King, 15, was shot on Feb. 12 by classmate Brandon McInerney, 14, after King asked McInerney to be his Valentine. King had recently identified himself as gay and had been dressing in what could be considered a feminine manner.

On March 25, an event titled Resist Queer Bashing occurred at the fountain on UVic's campus with the purpose of creating awareness of the issue, but also of the murder. Members of UVic Pride, the Women's Centre, Anti-Violence Project came together to organize the event.

The event was originally going to be a memorial, similar to the Trans Day of Remembrance which occurs each year on Nov. 20 to remember those killed because of their gender identity. The atmosphere on that day is one of quiet reflection, but Brodie Metcalfe, 21, said the March 25 event is different.

"Now we are calling it a day of resistance, because I think it's a time where we really need to speak up and speak out about these issues," said Metcalfe, a member of UVic Pride. "We need to be more vocal and more productive."

The event began with Anna Turje, the Women's Centre representative on the UVic Students' Society board of directors, passionately addressing the crowd. She asked supporters to raise their fists in a symbol of resistance. The crowd responded, fists raised with enthusiasm.

Various speakers followed, talking about everything from the legal side of victimization to the struggles of those who "pass" as male or female but don't want to talk about their gender with strangers. One speaker expressed outrage over the violence while another spoke of personal fear.

Quilt squares hung from a rope behind the gathering where people wrote about their own experiences with gender-based violence.

"Cigarette butts are not for my face," read one.

"I'm just trying to be myself," read another.

Around 200 people attended the event, some only staying for a few minutes, but most coming right into the action.

A die-in occurred, where speakers read the names and brief stories of some of the victims killed by gender-based violence. As the names were read, members of the crowd fell down to represent each individual. Others drew around those lying on the ground in chalk, similar to a crime scene.

Statistics Canada's 2004 report titled "Sexual Orientation and Victimization" concluded that those who identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual "reported experiencing higher rates of violent victimization" than their heterosexual counterparts.

See *Awareness combats,* p. 2

Future of web neutrality questioned

Nathan Lowther

In Canada, any debate involving "neutrality" usually refers to carbon, not the Internet.

Network neutrality — or net neutrality — is a term which refers to Internet service providers treating content and users equally.

The alternative is Internet service providers offering tiered services, with users who pay higher rates receiving faster service and preferential loading. It could also refer to Internet service providers restricting access to websites that they are in competition with, or don't agree with.

"If they want to start not carrying the competitors' traffic, they could do that. There's no regulation," said Sudhakar Ganti, a computer science professor at UVic.

In the United States, attempts are being made to ensure that doesn't happen. The bipartisan Internet Freedom Preservation Act was presented to Congress on Feb. 12. It was hailed as bill that would "protect net neutrality and spark a much-needed public conversation about the future of the Internet" by SaveTheInternet.com, a coalition of NGOs, business, bloggers and citizens that is spearheading the American awareness campaign on net neutrality.

The coalition has also collected 1.5 million signatures on their online petition, showing there is interest within the American public.

But that interest isn't as evident north of the border. Ganti said there are two main reasons people aren't talking about it in Canada.

"It's not a big market," which means the infrastructure is not as exploited, he explained. "But the other problem is that most of the time we try to follow what the U.S. does."

In the United States, large telecommunications companies are lobbying for the right to tier the Internet. And they are upfront about it.

In December 2005, the Washington Post reported that the chief technology officer for BellSouth Corporation told reporters that Internet service providers such as BellSouth should be able to charge companies to have their site load faster than other sites. Part of the justification is that Internet service providers have invested in the infrastructure that allows many websites to operate. The owners of that infrastructure feel they should be allowed to charge whatever they can get.

See *Less open Internet,* p.2

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Awareness combats violence

According to the survey, "victimization" includes sexual assault, robbery and physical assault.

Turje explained that those who are queer but whose gender remains normative have the choice to blend into society. However, those who look gender variant don't have that option.

"When people look at you and don't know what the hell you are, you don't have the option of hiding," Turje said. "That's what the fear is. That's what it comes from."

According to Statistics Canada, 10 per cent of hate crime victims in 2001 and 2002 were targeted because they were transgendered or because of their sexual orientation.

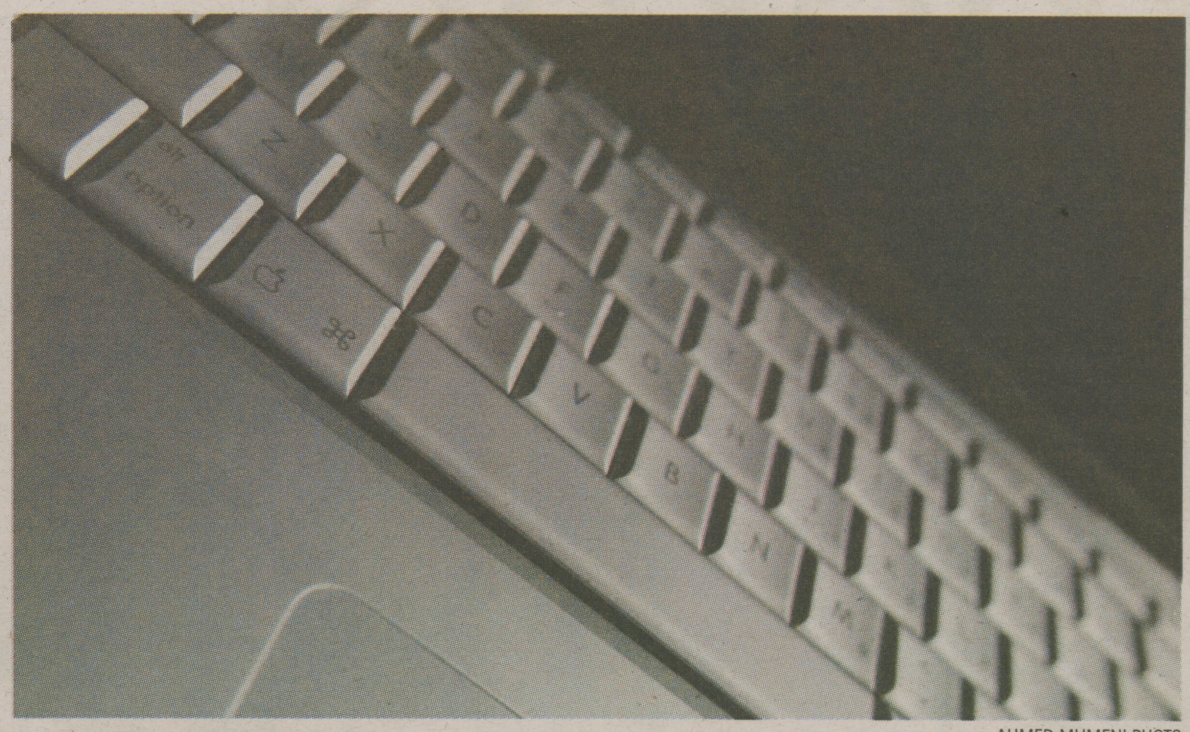
Both Metcalfe and Turje said awareness and education are two of the most important ways to combat this violence.

Metcalfe recently helped give a workshop to education students about gender awareness.

"It's not just fear — it's hate, it's ignorance, it's a lack of access to knowledge."

Turje said society plays a large role in the formation of these ideas.

"We base our society on man and woman," she said. "We base our society on that gender binary and when someone doesn't fit, that freaks people out."



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Internet service providers want to accept pay in exchange for giving sites more visibility on the web.

Continued from p. 1

Less open Internet poses threat to technology development

"Now what they would like to do is use my pipes free, but I ain't going to let them do that because we have spent this capital and we have to have a return on it," AT&T chief executive officer Ed Whitacre told BusinessWeek in October 2005. "So there's going to have to be some mechanism for these people who use these pipes to pay for the portion they're using."

Many Internet service providers claim the added revenue from tiered service will allow them to continue to invest in innovation. But others say a less open Internet would also pose a threat to technology development.

"For example, if you look at today's networks — whether you look toward a Facebook kind of innovation or a Google kind of innovation — they all came up because of the openness of the networks," said Ganti.

And there is already evidence that restrictions will be made that go beyond the market. In September, the New York Times reported that Verizon had denied a request by an abortion-rights group to text members through their network. Verizon changed its position after the Times' piece. In April 2006, Free Press reported that AT&T was caught blocking e-mails that contained mention of a group campaigning against an AT&T policy. Closer to home, Telus blocked Internet access to a server that hosted a site that posted pictures of Telus employees crossing picket lines during a 2005 strike.

"If we are talking about fairness, to whom is it fair? To the customers, or to the providers? That's where the question is," said Ganti. "Having regulations and what level they should be and how much they should police, that's where the tug of war is."

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Grads pull out

CFS loses UVic Graduate Students' Society in referendum

David Karp

UVic's graduate students are no longer members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) after students voted 58 per cent against maintaining ties with the national lobby group.

Polling went from March 18 to 20, and 457 students cast ballots.

"I'm relieved after four days of being nervous," said UVic Graduate Students' Society (GSS) director of communications and No-side chairperson Joseph Kolthammer.

On-campus representatives from the CFS declined to comment, and national chairperson Amanda Aziz and B.C. chairperson Shamus Reid did not answer their cellphones.

Campaigners for the CFS flew in from across the country to campaign at UVic. Campaigners, armed with colourful pamphlets, were visible outside the University Centre, where they frequently stopped undergraduate students who walked by to ask if they were graduate students. The CFS also held a barbecue for graduate students.

The No-side, meanwhile, ran a much smaller campaign.

"We only had one banner, [a website], and one set of buttons. That's our entire campaign," said Tayfun Ince, a member of the No campaign and former chair of the Graduate Students' Society. "We had nothing for material. We didn't use a single sheet of paper."

Ballot counting, which took almost two hours, didn't commence until almost 80 minutes after polls closed.

Roughly 30 graduate students gathered at the IQ Bistro, UVic's graduate pub, to drink, dance and await the referendum results.

The GSS, which has roughly 2,500 members, was local 89 of the Canadian Federation of Students.

The Simon Fraser Student Society held a referendum at the same time. Students at the school voted 67 per cent in favour of leaving the CFS.

CFS TAKES KWANTLEN TO COURT

VANCOUVER (CUP) – The Kwantlen Student Association's referendum to leave the CFS was temporarily stalled after the CFS petitioned the B.C. supreme court to have the referendum delayed.

The CFS petition requested the referendum at the Lower Mainland college be postponed until the fall. However the judge denied the decision, delaying the referendum only three weeks.

The judge ruled that the referendum be postponed to April 8, 9 and 10, with two weeks of campaigning to start on March 25. The judge presiding accused the CFS of attempting to delay the referendum, saying that CFS representatives "displayed no great alacrity in trying to bring this on in time."

The referendum was set to run March 11, 12 and 13, the same day as referenda at Simon Fraser and UVic. CFS lawyer Martin Palleson said the CFS would be disadvantaged if the referendum proceeded the other two referenda.

The referendum oversight committee, the four-person group in charge of overseeing the referendum, contained two members each from the CFS and Kwantlen, and became deadlocked on major issues.

When Kwantlen hired a consultant to run the referendum as a third party, it violated CFS bylaws. The judge set out referendum rules that the two sides could not agree on in court on March 20.

- David Karp

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

March 30, 2000 — A computer science master's student signed a deal with Mattel to avoid a lawsuit after he and his Swedish friend cracked a product said to be "the world's most trusted Internet solution."

The two hackers spent about six weeks reverse engineering the software, Cyber Patrol, before distributing a packaged crack code and essay. The essay explained how the software worked and examined its roster of 80,000 blocked sites, while the crack allowed users to override Cyber Patrol passwords.

"Parents buy this product as a useful tool to help them, not to replace them. This didn't help them, it hurt them," said a Mattel spokesperson.

The hackers said that the Internet filtering software denied freedom of choice.

"Cyber Patrol is marketed to schools, libraries and employers," said the UVic hacker. "You have a private company deciding what is right or wrong for an organization."

The hackers both signed an agreement giving Mattel the rights to their program crack. They were criticized for not making a legal test case for whether reverse engineering a program would be protected under copyright law.

"In practice you have certain freedoms. If some big company with lots of money and a lot of lawyers doesn't like what you're doing, you'll stop doing it," said the UVic hacker.

Recount results see no changes to UVSS board

Team Fast remains on top

Rosemary Westwood

A recount of the recent UVic Students' Society (UVSS) elections has resulted in no changes to the board.

The UVSS electoral office held a recount Tuesday, March 18 after a candidate of the Student for Students slate requested a recount. An anonymous e-mail distributed to the Martlet and the electoral office charged a ballot counter had deliberately miscounted votes.

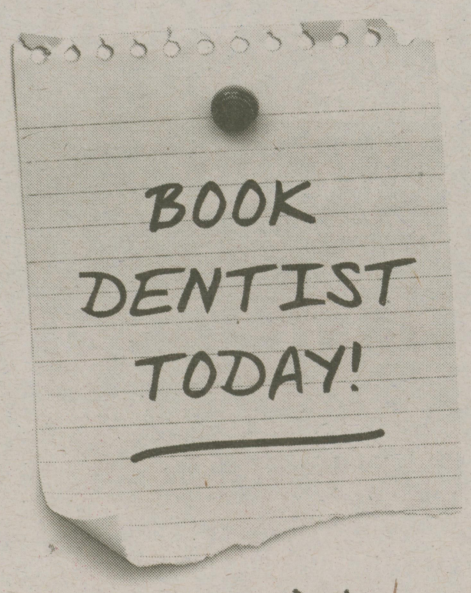
Students for Students suffered a huge loss to rival slate Team Fast, winning only two seats and no executive positions. Chief electoral officer Conrad Vanderkamp told the Martlet soon after the elections that a recount was likely in the wake of "all this fuss."

Deputy electoral officer Jessica Page said in an e-mail that a recount was conducted for the director of services position and for all director-at-large positions. Team Fast candidate Christine Comrie narrowly beat out Students for Students candidate George Robinson for the director of services position by 40 votes, according to the recount.

"Some of the numbers changed a bit after the recount ... but there were no changes substantial enough to affect who was elected to the board," Page wrote in an e-mail.

Page said most of the number changes were due to "some addition errors at the original count."

The results are still unofficial, as the electoral office must accept votes from co-op students until March 28, as long as they were postmarked by the last day of polling, March 7.



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New website rates consumer products

Nathan Lowther

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Zumer.com, currently in development, will provide evaluations of the environmental impact of everyday products.

What happens when you take the "con" out of consumer? You get Zumer.com.

Zumer is an online database that allows individuals to go beyond the marketing spin and research the social and environmental impact of products they buy every day. It is being developed by UVic graduates and is currently in the testing phase. Hundreds of products, from toothpaste to shoes to beer, will be ranked and evaluated in four categories: environment, society, product responsibility and corporate citizenry.

"The company was founded with the mission of making corporate social responsibility performance more accessible to consumers so that people can start expanding what [considerations] they take into their purchases," said Stephen Albinati, Zumer's database project manager.

The database uses a Wikipedia-style open source format so anyone can contribute to the information pool.

"As long as it's referenced information, it can be included," said Albinati.

Zumer has also worked with UVic, Royal Roads University, and a Mexican university to have research projects integrated into class curricula. The students use company and external sources and scrutinize how companies perform in an assortment of areas. These reports are then incorporated into the database. Zumer is hoping to expand the program to include 10 universities throughout North America.

"There is a big push from a student organization, MBA Students with a Conscience, and we're nailing a lot of their chapters," Albinati explained.

The student research is based on the framework developed by the Global Reporting Initiative, a Dutch-based non-government organization. The framework is a 70-point voluntary system that gives companies a guideline on how to report sustainability information. To date, over 1,500 companies have reported according to the Global Reporting Initiative's protocol, including over half the S&P 500.

"There's a good piece of information to start with that is out there, and in a consistent manner," said Albinati. "That equips people to start comparing companies within a rigorous format."

The one drawback is that it is mostly large multi-nationals that have reported using the Global Reporting Initiative framework, making it harder to find information on smaller local companies. But Albinati said that's the advantage of the open-source format.

"If you do have some information, put it in to Zumer — that's the whole idea. If we were trying to do all the research in-house, there's no way we could cover every company," he said.

Eventually, he hopes that Zumer will influence more companies to become transparent, allowing consumers to make more informed purchases. Albinati can foresee a time when someone in the detergent aisle can bring up Zumer on their cellphone, punch in a bar code and trace the footprint of that product.

NATIONAL NEWS

Hockey pranksters release 1,000 crickets in residence

Nikki Johnston & Ashley Fletcher
THE XAVERIAN WEEKLY

ANTIGONISH, N.S. (CUP) — A residence rivalry at St. Francis Xavier University was drowned out by the sounds of chirping insects, after approximately 1,000 live crickets were emptied into the hallways of a student dormitory as a pre-hockey game prank.

The March 16 prank resulted in at least one student being removed from the residence because of their phobia of insects, and two students being fired as residence executives.

Thompson and Tompkins, one residence, was targeted by the rival Chisholm and Gillis residence in advance of the university's annual residence hockey tournament, the Xavier Cup. The two residences were scheduled to face off against each other on March 18.

Adam Harris, president of the student union, confirmed that one resident of Thompson and Tompkins had to be moved from the residence because of their fear of crickets.

The university's facilities management placed small sticky pads in each room to try and kill the crickets without moving students out of the building. According to roommates Sarah MacLellan and Heather Johnston, it can take a couple of days for the insects to die once they become trapped.

At a meeting with university officials the following day, Sheryl MacAulay, president of the Chisholm and Gillis residence, denied any advance knowledge of the prank.

University officials decided not to hold the hockey game until the perpetrators of the prank came forward, despite the wishes of the student union.

"We said, 'Whoa whoa whoa — hold on here,' " explained Harris. "We treated the issue as very serious but hoped this was an isolated event by a small number of students. We wanted them to step forward."

Late on March 17, four individuals came forward. Harris and university officials learned that the residence's president and vice-president knew about the prank before it happened, contradicting their earlier statements.

"The house leaders had just told us 24 hours before that they weren't involved. This is why we asked them to resign," explained Harris.

MacAulay and Aylward said they were told that if they didn't resign, they would be brought before the student union council and impeached.

"Many people in the residence knew [about] and were involved with purchasing the crickets," Harris said. "It wasn't just these four girls that organized it — there were reports that they collected money from the rest of the house and had been planning this."

Aylward said that because house elections for next year are so soon, there will be no house president for the remainder of the year. Funds amounting to approximately $1,800 in the house bank account have been frozen. Both residences have also been removed from the Xavier Cup.

The university also imposed undisclosed sanctions on several students, according dean of students Joe MacDonald. He added that pranks occur regularly on the campus and, when in good taste, can help promote a healthy campus community.

"Through inter-house cups [and] intramurals, there have been many healthy rivalries between houses and we support the leadership of students who support these. For the most part, they are very healthy," he said.

Bonding activities are being planned for the two residences.

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Students cycle for sustainability in Canada

SAMANTHA MAGNUS PHOTO

Greg Horne holds a bake sale outside the SUB to raise money for his upcoming bicycle trip with the Otesha Project.

Samantha Magnus

Three UVic students will be out on their bikes this summer empowering youth to make decisions about the environment.

Jocelyn Land-Murphy and Jessica Lax conceived the Otesha Project in 2002, while studying sustainable development at a travelling field school in Kenya.

"Otesha" is a Swhaili word meaning "reason to dream." Motivated by the comparative lavishness of Canadian life, the project recruits young dreamers to the pavement to fire up other youth and spark some change.

Instead of preaching about environmental issues, Otesha aims to empower youth to make their own conscious decisions.

"It's difficult to get your message across without slapping people on the wrist," said John Lafratta, who rode with Otesha last summer.

Three UVic students are gearing up to join Otesha's bike tours. Each tour follows one of six routes connecting communities of all sizes in different areas of Canada.

Cycling to schools and community centres and sharing ideas through games and theatre, Otesha participants use high spirits and comedy to engage youth.

Greg Horne will cycle from Ottawa to Sudbury after leaving UVic this spring, while undergrads Wilson Mendes and Ildi Kovac will join the sunshine coast tour this summer. They're not promised a joy ride.

"You might wake up camping and make some burnt oatmeal for breakfast, then bike 30 kilometres to your next performance," said Emily Crosbie, a UVic geography major who rode with Otesha last summer. "It can be pretty chaotic."

Between 15 and 20 youth make up a team, which sticks together for the length of the tour. The teams decide everything by consensus — which can translate to tall and tedious discussion. Nevertheless, Horne is enthusiastic about using consensus and community processes.

"It's a model for the change we're trying to push forward," he said.

Mendes hopes to encourage young people to "live a more active life, and above all be aware about the responsibility we have in the world" instead of "sitting in front of the TV for 8 hours."

Student audiences learn about staggered showers, organic coffee, local breakfasts, and low-carbon transport to school. Mendes said the magic of cycling is its speed: the rider has time to sink into the moment instead of whizzing past.

"All the mechanisms we have developed have been to speed up the process," he said about modern technology. "Sometimes we lose the purpose because there are so many things going on."

Bike tour participants need to contribute $1,900 to the program, and Horne said he's learned a lot just from fundraising.

"I didn't know so many people were interested," he said, adding he's gotten plenty of positive support selling cookies and cookbooks and collecting donations online. Mendes and Kovac collected donations by the UVic fountain. The trio will also hold a benefit this April.

Bloggers clear public relations pollution

Samantha Magnus

Kevin Grandia is sitting in a hailstorm of phone calls and e-mails.

"It's what we call a shit show today," he said.

Grandia is a writer and director for DeSmogBlog.com. The nonprofit blog seeks to debunk what many see as false propaganda denying global warming in an attempt to protect corporate interests. Writers include journalists, authors and public relations people.

"With those backgrounds," said Grandia, "we're never just happy enough writing on our blog."

The writers combine breaking news with editorial opinions, "which makes us quite unconventional," said Grandia. "Even when we do editorialize, we try to add in information."

They catch tips or leaked information, memos from disgruntled scientists or story pitches print editors received but couldn't publish.

The site has gone from an oddity to a well-known information hub.

"Students are a natural audience," said Grandia, and quick to pick up something "fringe." "It's expanded way past that now," he said.

Both professionals and the public now use the site. Readers awarded DeSmogBlog the 2007 Canadian Blog Award for best group blog, and the Canadian Public Relations Society awarded creator Jim Hoggan a 2007 PR Communication Leadership Award for founding the site.

Hoggan was in PR for 35 years before he founded DeSmogBlog.

"He basically saw this divide, this incongruity between the science and what the media were saying," said Grandia.

According to Grandia, the media's climate change fabrications mirrored those that cast doubt on the effects of second hand smoking, and were even put out by the same players — now on Exxon Mobil's payroll instead of Phillip Morris.

"Less and less people trust mainstream media and are getting their news from the blogosphere," said Grandia, who said the Internet provides readers with a faster, more complete picture.

One example is when American White House "edits" were discovered to the U.S. Center for Disease Control director's Senate testimony on the public health effects of climate change. While newspapers only provided a line or two to explain the censorship, DeSmogBlog posted the full report with exclusions highlighted in red.

"We gained where print couldn't," said Grandia.

But not everyone agrees with their message. In January, after heavy dialogue on the site, DeSmogBlog retracted the SmogMaker prize they awarded to Barack Obama in 2007.

"That's the beauty of a blog — it's a conversation," said Grandia. "The goal was to create a conversation. It did that."

The DeSmog staff apologized for their "wrong-footed" attempt to spark dialogue, he noted.

"In the blogosphere, you can't be stubborn," said Grandia.

This kind of reaction from the public has been rare.

"For the most part, the only criticism we get is from the old boy's club that holds out that global warming isn't happening," said Grandia. He added those arguments don't stand up once you look into the sources of information or funding — usually unmentioned. "That's not providing all the context readers need to make a decision about the credibility of their argument," he said.

Hard work is involved in putting out the DeSmogBlog.

"We break big stories and little stories all the time," said Grandia. This means the last moments before deadlines can be, well, a shit show.

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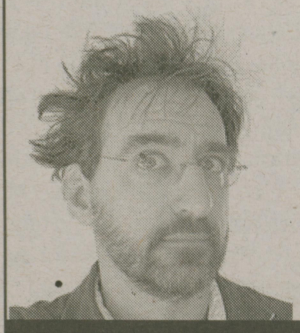

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Opinions

EDITORIAL

Hopeless housing hullabaloo

Picture this: it's the last day of exams, and you're one of the unfortunate few to have two of your hardest exams on April 23. You've studied your ass off, you've memorized your terminology, you've sharpened your darkest pencils and you've packed up all your boxes.

Boxes? That's right. It's not just exam time — tomorrow is moving day.

In the dregs of spring term, when your brain should be flooded with all the last-minute details of your calculus exam, your biology project and your history essay, you're being kicked out of residence. Come noon on April 24, you're outta here.

Sure, the big end-of-term move happens every year, but each year moving day encroaches closer and closer to the mid-month mark. For students stuck here until the bitter end, that means less time to pack, and less ability to focus.

Getting booted out of residence buildings the day after exams doesn't just wreak havoc on a person's schedule and state of mind — it's murder on your wallet too. For the steal of only $25 per night, residents who have applied and have been accepted for summer housing might (the key word being "might") be eligible to stay until May 1, when they will be relocated into their new room.

Of course, they may have to switch rooms before that, so add another move to the list. Keys are taken away and residence cards are turned off at noon on April 24, so plan on finding meals elsewhere.

The housing office advertises a 30-night summer stay in cluster residences for $504. That works out to $16.80 per night. Comparably, the eight-month winter session fee this year was $3,970 — $16.54 per night based on an eight-month (or 240-day) stay. But residences aren't available for entry until Sept. 3, and students are booted out on April 24, which cuts 10 days off. Now, the winter rates now change to $17.26 per day.

It's like paying $165.40 extra for 10 days you're not allowed to use.

Sure, you have to take into account that three months of the school year have 31 days in them. That's an extra three days onto our side of the bargain. But then you have to subtract the period over the December holidays when no one is allowed in the dorms (this year it was from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2). There goes another 12 days.

No one said life is fair, but we're students. We've already been screwed by tuition increases, and we'd just like a few moments to pack our bags in peace without getting eviction notices stapled to our foreheads.

We have to accommodate summer students as well. But cluster housing isn't at capacity during the summer, which means some winter and spring residents should be allowed to linger a little longer. One reasonable compromise would be to offer a $50 incentive for students who want to book it out early. That's still keeping more than $115 worth of accommodation that we paid for and aren't getting.

Certainly, cleaning the vast number of on-campus rooms takes time. Another solution would be to hire more cleaners: many hands make scrubbing work light. Five cleaners in one hour can well out-shine one cleaner in five hours. Or offer minimal rebates to students who manage to leave their places looking better than they found them — as some do. Maybe these rebates could come in the form of extra accommodation.

Because when it comes down to it, that's what students have made out of these small boxed rooms of pressboard and laminate: micro-homes. It's bad enough to be tossed into a sea of finals. To be kicked out of residence early by the housing office adds insult to painful injury — especially when all we need is a couple days reprieve.

Editorial topics and stances are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 2:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

POST-EXAM CELEBRATIONS

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

Elections were terrible, horrible, no good, very bad

Conrad Vanderkamp
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE
2008 UVSS ELECTIONS

So the Martlet is for democracy and against screw-ups, according to its editorial (One, two, we'll have a redo, March 20). In pursuit of those ideals it tackled the "utter pettiness and incompetence" of student elections at UVic.

I was chief electoral officer in this "spectacle," and I say they've hit the nail on the head. Just listen to all the shocking behind-the-scenes foul-ups that occurred in this year's election.

Before I was appointed, the student electoral officers had already set dates, organized nominations, advertised for poll sitters, and generally taken care of things rather well, with complete, anarchic disregard for their proper role as underlings, who should be taking their cue from the "independent" chief officer. To make matters worse, candidates repeatedly said the deputies were unbiased and fair.

The Martlet presents our federal government as the example of how to do elections right. In this election, sadly, there were no hidden contributions, no parachuted candidates. Worse, slate leaders and managers from all sides sometimes conferred together. They endured vandalism and scurrilous fake campaign materials without pointing fingers at each other. What could they be thinking?

And, in dismal contrast to the glorious melee of the House of Commons question period, candidates spoke respectfully to substantive issues and sometimes applauded each other.

Elections Canada, according to the Martlet, produces "unambiguous" results "within a few hours of the polls closing" by following procedures "to the tee." Here we obviously didn't keep the "tee" in mind. Polls closed at 4 p.m. By 6 p.m. anyone watching the results, which were inconsiderately posted in two places in real-time as the counts came in, could have a pretty good idea about the outcome, even without Peter Mansbridge. But the cleverly incognito team of Martlet reporters rightfully needed something more "unambiguous." Not to mention that some "independent" candidates were elected, in contrast to the House of Commons, where "independent" means "kicked out." And let's not forget how the UVSS insists on holding the election results as "unofficial" until the three week period for co-op voter ballot returns has passed. How dare they include off-campus undergraduate students in an undergraduate student election?

Afterwards a "press release" was issued under my name, properly listing everything I did wrong as well as other major irregularities in election procedures past and present. The Martlet understands press releases. They noted its "apparent" origin — journalistic caution — but in the end they decided the press release might be fraudulent, "but not before it reached multiple news agencies." It is indeed a shameful turn of events that the release was as far reaching as it was, especially since not all news agencies had the sixth sense for deception detection that the Martlet possessed and was obviously widely believed, as demonstrated by the overwhelming single phone call the electoral office had to field on the issue.

According to the Martlet, the press release "prompted one ... member to ask for a recount" and I "sensibly agreed." In their zeal, they rightly ignored a few minor facts, like the provision in the Electoral Policy that only the UVSS electoral committee can call for a recount, not the chief electoral officer, and the fact that the request for a director of services recount was spurred by a sudden change in the voting outcome with the posting of a single polling station's results. It was made long before the fraudulent press release was sent out. The electoral committee also thought it appropriate to further destroy student faith in the electoral process by upholding the right of a candidate to request a recount of the director-at-large positions, for the ludicrous reason that one candidate lost by four votes and another by nine. Again, what were they thinking?

Because of deadlines, the Martlet unfortunately had to report on the recounting before it happened, but it was prescient in its condemnation of the results. Clearly the ballot counters and the electoral team were impeccable in their tactics of "screwing up the counting," because the recount resulted in the exact same people getting elected.

No, this was a bad scene all around. Candidates who were civil, knowledgeable, funny, and overcame ugly sniping and vandalism, student electoral officers who were enterprising, approachable and scrupulous, an electoral policy that is a work in progress, ballot counters who reproduced the original results in a recount, voter turnout up 50 per cent — is there anything else that could go wrong?

My recommendation is obvious: the Martlet should conduct the next election. After all, they are the guardians of screw-ups.

martlet
The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Additional electoral reforms needed

George Robinson

Last week's Martlet editorial (One, two, we'll have a re-do, March 27) rightly highlights the fact that our student's society general elections have been marred in scandal for the past several years.

However, this year's annual general election was the cleanest, most professional election I've seen in my three years in student politics.

For the first time ever, we had an external chief elections officer who had professional qualifications, not a student who has ties to the Canadian Federation of Students.

We also enjoyed the clearest policy to date. The part of the electoral policy which deals with restrictions on campaign materials was cut down from three-and-a-half pages to one page.

Despite the improvements, there are still a couple changes that need to be made in order to ensure completely free and fair elections.

The first change is also the least likely to be implemented. Executive directors of the UVic Students' Society shouldn't collect salary while campaigning. The three Team Fast executives running for re-election were being paid full-time while out trying to convince you to vote for them. Their argument is that they need to continue to work while the election goes on, or services to students would be interrupted. Higher levels of government cease to exist during general elections; our student's society shouldn't be any different. Elected executives aren't very involved in the day-to-day operations of the SUB; surely management and one of the execs could keep things running during the week of voting.

The second thing that needs to change is the running of events during elections. This past voting week saw visits from famous environmentalist David Suzuki and international journalist Gwynne Dyer. These events sold out and featured introductions from Team Fast chairperson candidate Caitlin Meggs, who then proceeded to take credit for bringing them to campus.

I wonder if her opponent would have been allowed to speak at these events or if Meggs claimed these speakers as campaign expenses? Student society resources, staff members and even office space shouldn't be exploited by incumbents as a means to further their re-election efforts.

The final thing that needs to be clarified in election policy is the role of slates. This year, the interpretation of the rules prohibited slates from listing all their candidates on flyers and posters. In previous years this was allowed and voting patterns followed suit, with slated candidates polling similar numbers to their fellow slate members.

The concept of slates is to allow a group advantage in organizing and campaigning; some of this advantage is removed when slate lists aren't allowed to be printed.

Team Fast found a way around this rule by handing the Martlet's elections supplement to students, using a highlighter to draw attention to Team Fast candidates. This technically isn't against the rules, but it highlights a need to provide a balanced starting point for all slates.

The benefits that all the candidates have gained under the recommendations of retired lawyer Sandra McCallum's report on the 2006 and 2007 elections are substantial.

This report has yet to be fully implemented into our society's bylaws, and I hope the incoming UVSS board will push ahead with the prescribed amendments in order to put years of electoral scandal behind us.

Congratulations are due to my opponents on Team Fast, but even more so to the elections officers for running the cleanest student election UVic has seen in years.

Hopefully with just a couple more changes, next year's elections will be even better.

George Robinson ran unsuccessfully for UVSS director of services with Students for Students.

No one should be an option

Adam Filiatreault
INTERCAMP

EDMONTON (CUP) — When I go to vote in my student union's election, one choice will be absent from my ballot — the option to declare that none of the candidates are qualified to represent me.

In fact, the only options I have if I don't like any of the candidates is to vote for the "lesser of the evils" or not vote at all.

But if I don't fill out a ballot, instead of saying "I don't like these candidates," I'm actually saying "I don't care enough to vote", and if I choose the person I think is least unqualified, I'm just supporting ineffectiveness. As a responsible, informed voter, I should have the right to vote "none of the above."

When a candidate runs uncontested, I can vote "yes" or "no," so why can't I have a similar vote for positions with more than one candidate? As a member of the electorate, it's only fair that the candidate I vote into office didn't get there because they were better than the others, but that they were the right person for the job.

LETTERS

Questions about livestock

I enjoyed your informative feature, which stimulates some questions about UVic's food services policy (Green campus, March 6). Why doesn't UVic join Richmond and Duncan in banning eggs purchased from industrial battery operations? I note the interest in the "100 mile diet." Equally important is non-contaminated, non-cruel egg and chicken meat.

By "non-contaminated, non-cruel," I mean eggs and meat uncontaminated with antibiotics and growth hormones given to chickens squashed into cages where they cannot even turn, around let alone peck and scratch, and whose bones break under the weight put on due to growth hormones. Fast bulking and egg production may be cost effective for producers, but the toxicity, the waste generated, and water and soil pollution that results, not to mention the cruelty to sentient creatures, has no place in institutions aiming for green sustainability.

- Barbara Julian, community member

Good governance not apathy

If you look at the University of Alberta Students' Union website under advocacy, you see three categories: quality, accessibility and affordability of education. In addition to these broad goals, there are very specific targets for achieving them such as "ensure that all indirect costs of research are funded from sources other than the base operating budget." None of the policies they advocate are related to raising the minimum wage, or taxing the community to subsidize the late night transportation of drunk college kids (Hold the UVSS to the standard you hold yourself, March 20). They even resisted the urge to tuck the word "sustainability" into every other sentence. Instead they focused on a multitude of sensible, achievable aims that are universally desirable and directly relevant to improving the education received by their members.

The University of Alberta student union even manages to go several consecutive semesters without getting embroiled in some ridiculous controversy. Maybe that has something to do with the fact that they take care of business rather than getting involved with issues that don't concern them. Staying politically neutral out of respect for the diverse opinions of the UVSS is meant to represent isn't apathy, it's good governance.

- Kailer Mullet, UVic student

Victoria sewage treatment works

Nathan Lowther does a good job of summarizing the *Crapshoot* documentary about the dangers of toxic sewage sludge (McKay's documentary full of crap, March 20), but needs a bit of perspective when he concludes that the movie is a "must see" for anyone seeking information about our situation in the Capital Regional District. Our current natural, marine-based sewage treatment is performing satisfactorily, and the very small amount of toxins that escape stringent source controls and that emerge from the outfall pipes are being quickly dispersed and degraded in Juan de Fuca Strait.

Several marine scientists and health officials have recently gone public with their concerns about the environmental impacts of the massive land-based sewage scheme that the Gordon Campbell and Stephen Harper governments are forcing on our region.

That scheme will produce tonnes of sewage sludge every day, produce immense amounts of greenhouse gases and disrupt whole communities in our region. Why cut down the old-growth trees in UVic's Haro Woods for a concrete building to produce more sludge?

The movie *Crapshoot* only suggests an unrealistic alternative to toxic sewage sludge production — an expensive and unworkable composting toilet. Don't try and fix what ain't broke!

- John Newcomb, UVic geography lab instructor

Happy Heretic out of line

We are writing regarding Derek Madson's column (Violence at root of Qur'an, March 6), claiming that the holy scripture of Islam, the Qur'an, is "hate literature" and rooted in violence. The printing of this article shows a serious lack of judgment on behalf of the Martlet and its staff and runs completely contrary to its stated mission to act as an agent of constructive social change.

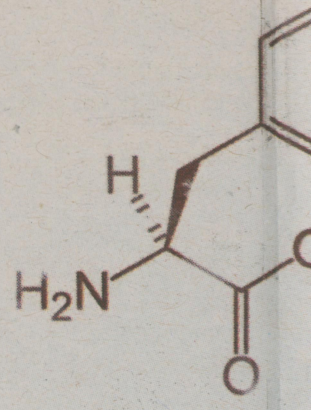
It is very clear that this article violated the Martlet's own statement of purpose. Furthermore, its appearance in the public forum of the university has created a culture where Muslim students feel unsafe, marginalized and discriminated against.

It would not be constructive to offer a reply to Madson's ignorant invective. To enter into a debate would suggest an acceptance of the terms and context in which it was begun. We do believe strongly in the value of debate about religion and even the particular beliefs of a particular faith, but Madson's article was not debate. It was a one-sided rant filled with stereotypes, misrepresentations and incitement to discriminate. We look forward to a full apology and affirmation from the Martlet that its own mission statement will be followed in the future by encouraging constructive debate about religion.

- Dean of humanities Andrew Rippin, Interfaith Services and Muslim Student Association

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Engaged?
Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

Living with PKU



The story of Mandy Cosburn's struggle through the ups and downs of a genetic disorder

by Sarah Lawley-Wakelin

Mandy Cosburn was born at the Victoria General Hospital on June 26, 1986. At one week old, blood samples collected during a mandatory infant heel poke test indicated that she was phenylketonuria (PKU) positive.

"The hospital called my mom and told her she had to come back ... because I was mentally retarded," said Cosburn, perched on her blue velour couch, dark hair falling in front of thick-rimmed glasses. "She was freaking out and crying because she thought she would have realized that after being home for a week with me. She had no problems except that I couldn't eat without being sick."

The doctors made it sound like she had irreversible mental retardation, but this was not the case.

PKU is a genetic metabolic disorder that occurs in approximately one in 15,000 births. It is a deficiency in an enzyme which processes phenylalanine.

Phenylalanine, also called PHE, is supposed to be converted into tyrosine, an amino acid used in DNA replication. With PKU, PHE isn't properly processed, causing it to build up in the body. This is dangerous, especially when toxins accumulate in the brain. High levels of toxins can cause stunted growth, seizures and mental retardation.

Cosburn spent the first six weeks of her life in B.C. Children's Hospital in Vancouver. There, doctors told her parents their daughter was not mentally retarded, but without treatment her cognitive processes could be slowed.

A specialized diet low in PHE can control PKU. However, low-PHE food is very expensive, running Cosburn around $150 a month for the bare minimum: a few packages of pasta and some baking mix. That's in addition to a regular grocery bill of roughly $500 per month. Her mother couldn't afford that much, so Cosburn went without many of these foods in her younger years. This caused problems with toxin levels.

"For the five years before kindergarten I was in and out of hospital," Cosburn says. "My father left when I was six because he couldn't handle it."

She fought a lot with her mother, who found it physically and emotionally draining dealing with the disease.

"My mom had to make my formula every night for me," said Cosburn. "She had to scoop out 20 scoops of formula into the blender, and if she got interrupted or lost count she had to pour the whole thing out and down the drain."

The formula is essential to replace lost minerals and amino acids that people with PKU don't get by avoiding protein.

"I was teased a lot because my milk was pink and it really smelled," she said, wrinkling her nose. "I remember it spilling all over my desk in kindergarten while everyone was out eating their lunch, and when they all came back in to the classroom after lunch you could smell it. Everyone was like, 'What is that smell?' "

The milk is how many people remember Cosburn, something she finds both heartbreaking and a little humorous.

"I still run into people from elementary school who say "Do you still drink that awful pink milk?"

A downward spiral

Cosburn's mother wrote out her diet and measured her food until she was 13. After that, Cosburn decided to take over, albeit haphazardly.

"I was so not into it," she said. "I didn't measure food and didn't drink all my milk and started getting really sick."

Her toxin levels started peaking. Symptoms began occurring gradually, such as weight loss, deteriorating eyesight, migraines and the growth of thin, almost white hair because of malnutrition.

"I always argued that it wasn't to do with my PKU, that it had to do with something else," she said. But she was admitted into B.C. Children's Hospital for six weeks for the first time since her childhood.

From then on, she began a yo-yo pattern of getting a bit better, then falling off track again.

"I didn't want to measure things any more, didn't want to be different," she explained.

Meeting a few more people with PKU around this time might have helped Cosburn get back on track, but with the clinic off in Vancouver, she never got this chance. She failed her grade 12 year because she was in the hospital.

"It was one of the hardest things ever because they only told me six months before graduation that I wasn't going to make it," she said. "[My friends and I] all grew up together and they all graduated without me."

In her second Grade 12 year, she was down to 110 pounds and had waist-length blond hair. Her bones were extremely brittle and she was very pale.

"I also bruised very easily," she said. "You would just flick me and I would bruise."

She was constantly cold, wearing hoodies and jeans to class even in warmer months. She endured peer pressure, bullying, and a stint with an abusive boyfriend.

"That year was hell," she said. "I was depressed, I was malnourished, I wasn't eating and I was accused of having every eating disorder from bulimia to anorexia."

Cosburn was suffering from gastro-reflux, which caused her pain every time she ate. To curb this, she stopped eating for weeks at a time.

A new beginning

Cosburn eventually graduated, and it was around this time that she met her now-boyfriend, Cole Rickett, at a surprise 19th birthday party. At first, she had trouble giving Rickett a chance because of her abusive relationship. She was living with her best friend, Tyrai Lowe, but one weekend Lowe had to go to Vancouver and Cosburn needed a place to stay. Rickett offered, and Cosburn accepted. They've been together ever since.

Cosburn credits Rickett for turning her life around, something he refuses to take credit for.

"She's the one that did it," said Rickett, a soft-spoken man who towers over six feet tall. "You can't make somebody do something. She can say it was me, but I think I'm just a little voice going, 'Eat right.' Some people wouldn't listen. It's her will."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Mandy Cosburn and her boyfriend Cole Rickett are getting through PKU together.

There is no denying that Rickett's arrival into her life made some changes, though.

"He taught himself everything," Cosburn said. "He comes to all my clinics and all of my appointments."

She also credits Rickett with the tremendous financial help that he gave her in 2005.

"I didn't have a good job and couldn't afford the low-protein food, so he started buying it," she said, adding that Rickett helped pay her rent.

"He came to the clinic with me one day and they had all these new products for me to try," she said. "He even tried them too."

Rickett also helps her bake and prepare food, and can tell if food is OK for Cosburn just by looking at a box or can. "I probably know more than she does," he laughed.

"He does, actually. He can do the math part and I can't," Cosburn said.

"I always want to push her in the right direction and be supportive," Rickett said. "I know what she can and cannot eat and I try to enforce it when she's being difficult."

He said he wants to ensure that Cosburn never falls back into the pattern she was in when he met her, although he admits that can be frustrating at times.

"I didn't enforce it too much at first because I didn't want to push her," he says. "It was gradual. Now, I make little suggestions here and there."

Cosburn credits Rickett with her current state of good health.

"It's like I just woke up one day and was like, 'I haven't been sick. I haven't been in pain,' " she said. "It was just really cool."

Eventually she took herself off all her 21 pills. These had been used since she was 16 to treat everything from depression to stomach problems.

"[I'm still] dealing with depression and weight gain, but my [toxin] levels over the past two years oddly enough have been perfect," she said. "You can look at a record sheet of my levels and from when I met Cole in July '05 — they go right down and they stay down."

Even with this good news, Cosburn is anxious about her recent weight gain.

"I don't like going out in public and don't like running into anyone I used to know," she said. "I don't like being dependent on anyone. I feel like I look horrible."

However, her friend Lowe said that that's how she knows Cosburn is healthy.

"She was so thin all the time," said Lowe. "When her levels are proper, she gains the weight. When they're not she loses it."

Making a difference

Cosburn has recently applied for the Robert Guthrie scholarship to continue her education. Guthrie invented a low-PHE program that allows people living with PKU to lead normal, healthy lives.

Cosburn intends to get a diploma in counselling from Unity Network Counseling Centre, and her dream is to open up a metabolic treatment centre here in Victoria so that people no longer have to travel all the way to Vancouver for tests.

"I think that all the things I went through — the high levels, the depression, the peer pressure, the bullying — really made me who I am today," she said. "I want to take that now and help others so they don't have to go through what I went through."

PKU is becoming diagnosed in more births, as it is an inherited automosomal recessive trait. This means that both parents must be carriers in order to pass it on to their children. If they are, there is a 25 per cent chance that the baby being born will have PKU and a 50 per cent chance that the baby will be a carrier. Since PKU has only recently been able to be controlled, many of the initial survivors are starting to have children themselves, making the disease more common.

Cosburn hopes a centre in Victoria would encourage the increasing number of people with PKU to meet each other.

"I realized my whole life that I had never really met anyone with PKU until I was in my late teens," she said.

For now, though, Cosburn is hoping to help the PKU cause by organizing Canada's first walkathon for the disease.

"One of the biggest reasons why we're doing it is to create awareness," she said. "We want to let people know that this is a real thing and it's becoming more prevalent, and that we also need treatment."

Cosburn hopes the walkathon will garner political attention, convincing the government to cover some of the cost of low-PHE foods for sufferers. They cover the drink boxes, which have to be taken four times a day at $15 a piece, but they don't cover any of the other food integral to maintaining a balanced diet.

The walkathon committee hopes to have the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre confirmed as the site of the walk. It will be taking place on May 10, 2008, and has a flat registration fee of $25, which will include a shirt and a bracelet. Registration deadline will be sometime near the end of April. Cosburn hopes the flat fee will encourage more people to take part, rather than "fundraising door-to-door for a walkathon nobody's heard about for a cause nobody knows about."

It is clear that Cosburn has come to terms with her condition.

"If they told me tomorrow that they invented a cure for PKU and gave me that option, I'd be like, 'No, that's all right,' " she said. "I know that there are drugs in testing that are trying to help recreate the enzyme, but I'm just not interested. I could care less."

That is part of the reason why, while she supports PKU research, she wants the funds from the walkathon to go directly to helping the clinic in Vancouver pay for food and supplies, and also to help create low-PHE baskets for those who can't afford food.

With proper nutrition and proper support, there is a bright future ahead for people with PKU — they can live an ordinary, healthy life.

"I don't feel any different," Cosburn said.

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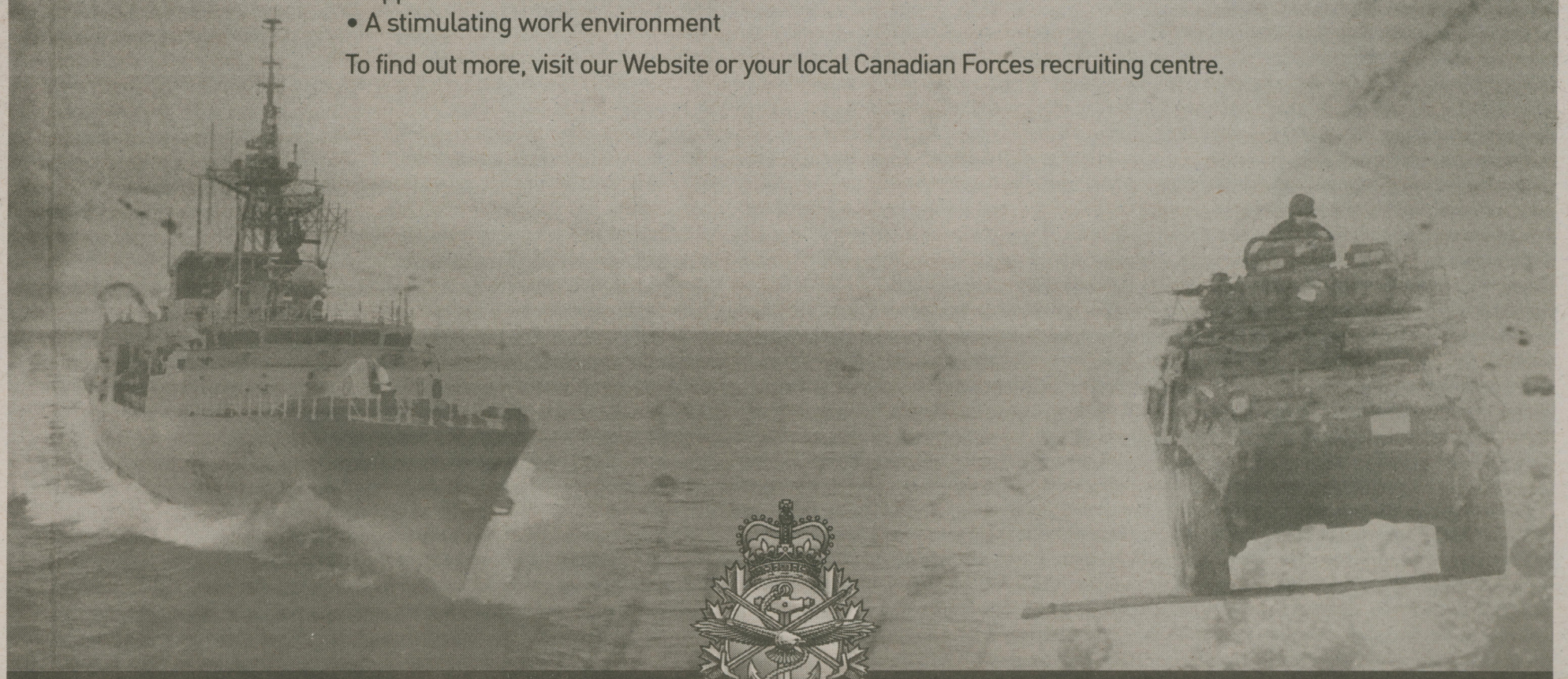

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CHARLOTTE HELSTON PHOTO

Student Erin Mahar wants people to make a difference and have fun.

ON CAMPUS

Rock for action

What: Rock 4 Darfur
Where: Felicita's pub
When: March 29 @ 9 p.m.
How much: $5 ($7 at the door)

Charlotte Helston

Three local bands will take to the stage at Felicita's pub on Saturday in Rock 4 Darfur, a benefit concert.

The event, coordinated by Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) UVic, features the Seven Year Old Poets, Brave New Waves and Whiskey Moustache.

"Our aim is $500 in ticket sales and $300 in donations," said Jonathan Pluecks, president of STAND UVic. The club aims to raise awareness about the Darfur issue and earn funds for a humanitarian effort.

The night's proceeds will go to the International Rescue Committee, an organization committed to bringing relief to victims of conflict in regions torn apart by violence and deprivation. The committee will see that the money will bring shelter, clean water, healthcare and education to struggling individuals in Darfur.

Since 2003, ethnic cleansing in the Darfur region of Sudan has terrorized men, women and children. On one side of the conflict are rebel groups comprised of various ethnic tribes; on the other side are the Sudanese military and Janjaweed, a militia group comprised of nomadic Arabic-speaking African tribes. The Sudanese government has allegedly provided the militia with money and participated in joint attacks targeting the rebel supporting tribes, actions the government denies.

"Victims have fled from their bombed villages, many have been raped and everyone has lost family members," said Pluecks. "With no tools to cook or grow food with they are becoming isolated and cut off from their livelihood."

In the five years since the conflict began, at least 200,000 people have been killed. That's over 10 times the student population at UVic.

"No matter how hard you try to justify why someone would harm families, women and children you will not succeed," said Pluecks. "What you can do is paint a vivid image of the future you want to share with the rest of humanity and strive to achieve it. In doing so, you just might inspire future generations to do the same."

In addition to attending Rock 4 Darfur, Pluecks urges students to phone 1-800-GENOCID, a hotline that directly links the caller to the office of Canada's Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the minister of foreign affairs.

"If 35 university chapters [of STAND] can each find 300 people who believe that Canada should send help to Darfur, then STAND will have contributed to 6,000 voice mail messages," said Pluecks.

Tickets for Rock 4 Darfur can be purchased in front of the McPherson Library from March 25-28 between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Hot fashion goes to the streets

What: Yes Please! fashion show and silent auction
Where: Open Space
When: Fri. March 28 @ 6:30 p.m.
How much: $20

Rosemary Westwood

Fashion may be known for its fickle nature, but Victoria's hip boutiques know how to get behind a good cause. The Yes Please! fashion show and silent auction is no exception.

Hosted by the UVic Commerce Students' Society, March 28 will see some of spring's hottest looks strut down the runway to raise money to support the Youth Empowerment Society (YES), which provides outreach initiatives aimed at the street youth population.

"I wanted to choose a charity that addressed homelessness because it is such a striking issue lately, and it is important not only for the general society, but also in the business aspect of it," said Lindsay Fichaud, fashion show organizer along with Teresa Sims.

Fichaud praised YES's holistic approach to dealing with street issues.

"They offer training and development programs so that you can actually help youth exit the street scene as opposed to just putting a little Band-Aid on it and mending it for the short term," she said.

Each year commerce students hold a charity event, and this year Fichaud said the goal is to connect business students and the local business community while raising $2,000 for YES.

"The idea was to do a closed loop — for the community from the community," she said.

Susie Girling, program coordinator at YES, said the fashion show is unlike any fundraiser the society has previously held.

"I think that it really appeals to the 20-something crowd," she said. "It's ingenious because it attracts people who want to help and ticket prices are reasonable."

She said any money raised from the fashion show will go directly toward benefiting kids that access the programs, such as the emergency youth shelter or the alliance club, a drop-in program that gives youth access to showers, laundry, food and a safe place to hang out.

"There's so many different places it could go," said Girling.

Shops that signed up to support YES and show off the must-have items for spring include Outlooks for Men, Bella, Addiction, Suasion, North of Wednesday, Decade and British Importers.

"We really try and pick and choose things that we feel strongly about," said Addiction owner Linda Hartwig about the boutique's decision to support the event.

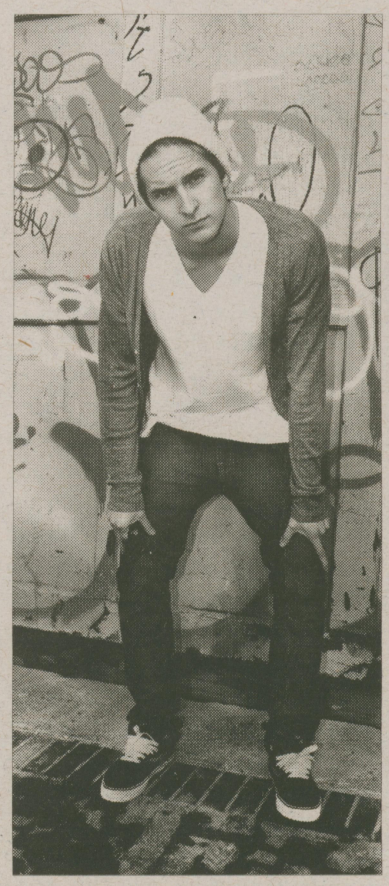
The fashion will focus on business and leisure clothing, challenging business appropriate clothing to forgo the boring stereotype and incorporate today's trends.

"I really wanted to target independent boutiques downtown and I wanted to choose ones that have fashion forward businesses appropriate but also really nice leisure clothing," said Fichaud. "We are young."

Fichaud said the show will highlight how to "dress for success" and provide a chance for the general public to give back to the community. As for what's hot this season, Hartwig had a few tips.

"The dress is still really big. Colours are a really big thing," she said, adding that Addiction will add some playful accents to the show's theme.

Styling will be provided by The Fix hair salon and a bar, food and live music by Steph MacPherson will round out the event. Tickets are available at Suasion and the Business and Economics Building room 113.



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Kevin Starke will model for the Youth Empowerment Society fashion show this Friday.

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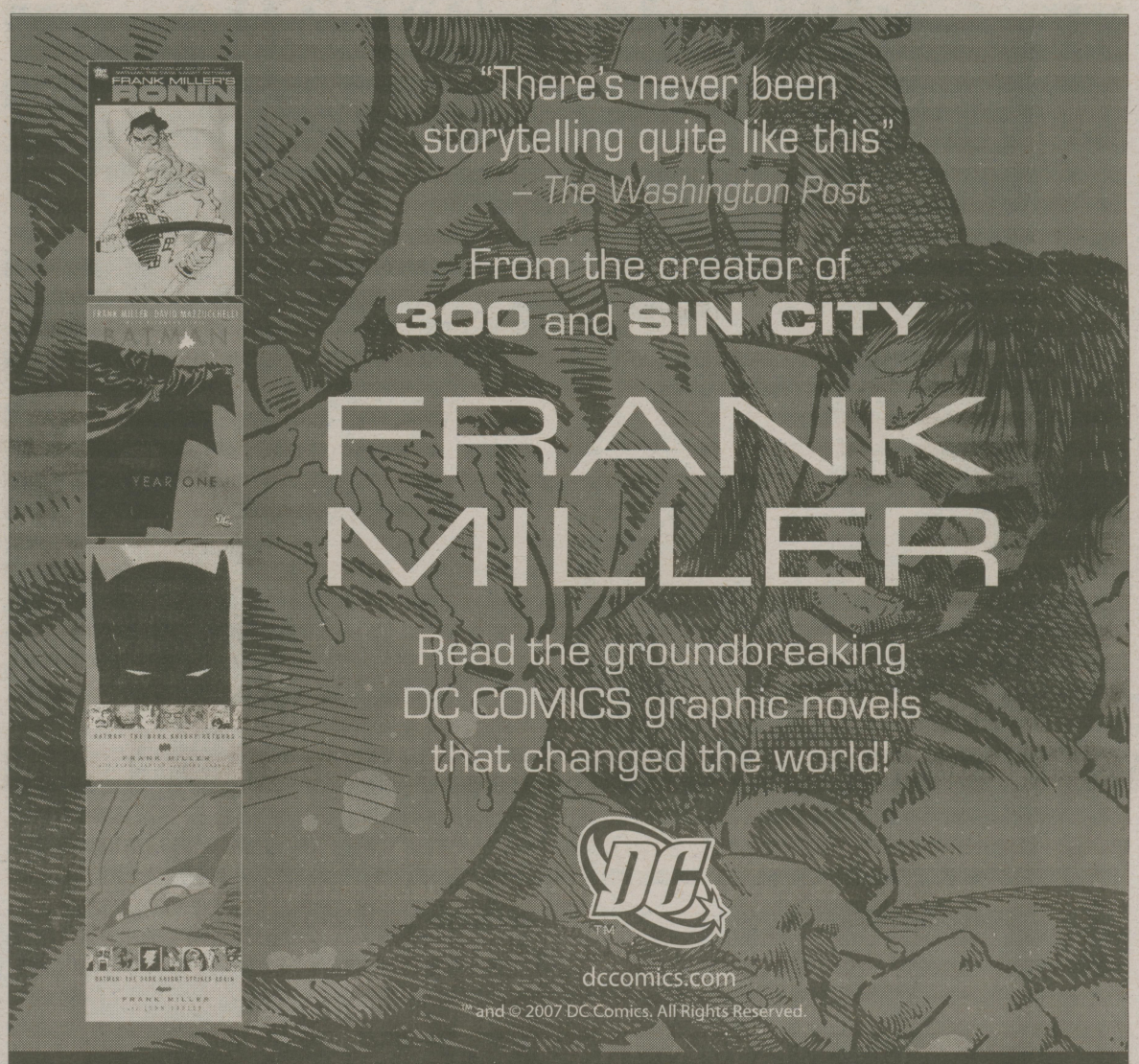


ASK MISS MARTLET

Cake for the taking

Danielle Pope

Dear Miss Martlet:

Where did the term "you can't have your cake and eat it too" come from? What does this mean, and why would anyone want cake they couldn't eat?

- Eater of cake

Dear Eater:

You might be surprised just how many people do want cake they can't eat.

The term means you can't have something both ways — especially two conflicting things. For example, you can't have a high-profile job and time to enjoy your money. Or you can't have an all-chocolate diet and expect to get thin (try telling that to someone after a plate of brownies).

But the fascinating thing about English idioms is not only that they all get roped into the cliché category, they also lose their direct meanings over time.

The phrase causes many people to mistakenly believe the word "have" means "eat," whereas the real meaning of the term refers to possession or ownership. The Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings notes, "You can't have your cake and eat it too: One can't use something up and still have it to enjoy."

In other words, once you eat your cake, it's gone — you don't have it anymore. If you don't eat it, it sits there, yours for the owning. A clearer sense of the phrase comes from flipping it around to "you can't eat your cake and have it too," as it used to be said in years past. Interestingly, the term was first recorded in 1546 in book of proverbs by John Heywood, though it popped into common usage around the mid-1700s in a variety of forms including "eat your cake and have the crumbs in bed with you" and "you can't have everything and eat it as well."

Modern usage has altered the meaning. Urban Dictionary shows a cross-section of definitions from "you can only have it so good" to "life is bittersweet" to "taking what you can get." The derived term "cake-eater" has come to mean an indecisive person who wants everything impossibly his or her way.

It might be a long way from the simple physics of a slice of cake disappearing when you eat it, but did we really expect a term that floated as a metaphor to deliver a clear message? You know what they say.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Got a question? Only one week left. E-mail all of your last-minute queries to missmartlet@martlet.ca.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Spinach is good for you inside and out, raw or cooked, but be sure to rinse those leafy greens clean.

WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

Popeye had right idea

Jessica Salloum

Warm and creamy, cold and crunchy, baked into pizza or mixed into body scrub, it's easy to love spinach.

This vegetable does more good inside your body than slathered on, but experts say that it is good for the skin, bones, prostate and ovaries. Spinach is dripping with vitamins K, A and C. It's also packed with magnesium, calcium and iron.

As always, raw is best. That doesn't mean you should stay away from spanakopita triangles. To remedy wilted spinach, steam it until soft, then press out the water and freeze. This way, you'll have cooked spinach ready to toss into future recipes. But wash the leaves thoroughly — spinach can be filthy.

Rather than making the phyllo pastry from scratch, you can buy it in the grocery store with frozen pastries. The sheets come in different sizes, but you can get three or four small spanakopitas from each one.

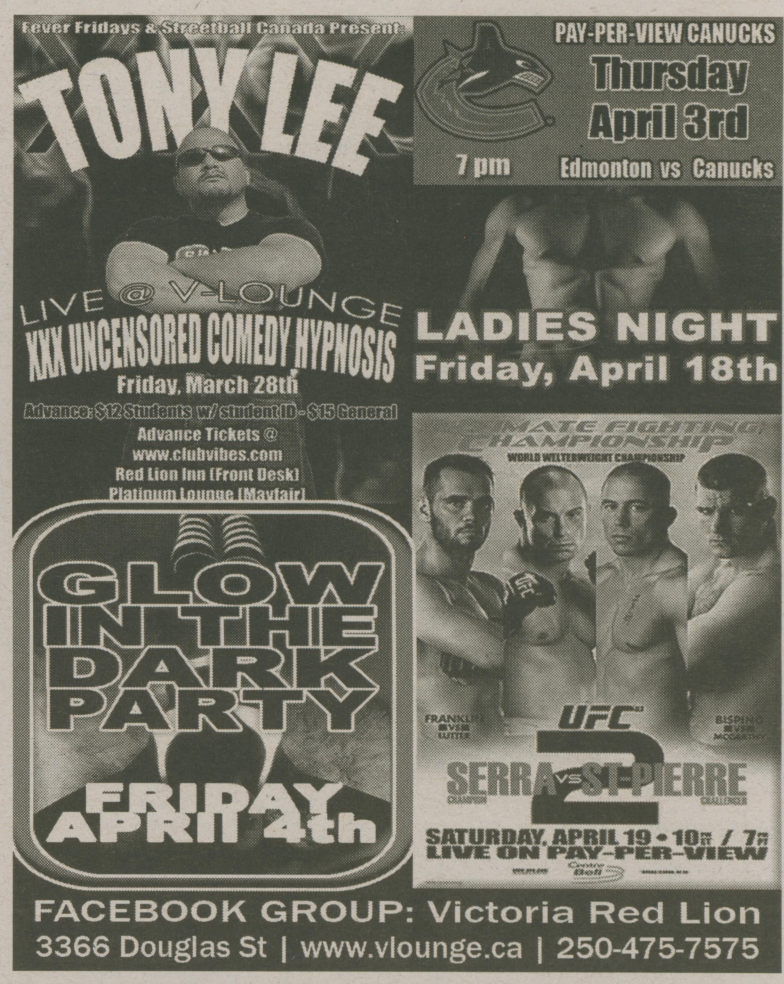
SPANAKOPITA

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 450 grams (1 pound) spinach
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) green onion, sliced
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) parsley, chopped
- 1 egg
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) feta cheese
- salt and pepper to taste
- 10 sheets ready-made phyllo dough
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) melted butter

Heat oil on medium in a pan and sauté the onion. When onion is soft, add the spinach and green onion and heat until spinach is just wilted. Stir in the parsley, egg and feta and add salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lay out a sheet of phyllo and brush it lightly with melted butter. Fold it over and cut the whole sheet into three or four even strips, depending on how large you want your triangles. Be careful with the phyllo — it dries out easily, so cover it with a cloth when you're not working with it. Put a big spoon of filling on one end of the strip and fold it over like a flag until you have a triangle. Brush with butter and place on a baking sheet. Repeat until all the filling has been used.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden. Makes 30-40 small triangles.



UVic grads creating change through soccer

Will Johnson

One Victoria organization is creating change abroad — with soccer.

"We really believe that anyone out there can make a significant impact in our world," said Gavin Hollett, chief executive officer of Opportunitas Aequa and recent UVic grad.

Since 2007, Hollett has run Opportunitas Aequa with a simple mission statement: soccer. Opportunitas Aequa is Latin for "equal opportunity," and embodies the group's belief that everyone should have access to soccer equipment.

In January 2007, six members of Opportunitas Aequa set up near the base camp of Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador and began building a soccer field. By the time they were done, they had delivered 1,350 balls, 850 pairs of cleats and running shoes, and $20,000 worth of school uniforms.

Through the construction and re-construction of local soccer fields, and the distribution of their equipment, US$12,000 was brought into the local economy.

FILE PHOTO

Opportunitas Aequa lets underprivileged kids play soccer.

While in Ecuador, members of Opportunitas Aequa met a young boy named Medardo.

"He was an awesome kid — he just had so much joy," said Duncan Penn, senior executive of Opportunitas Aequa. "We'd come back after a long day, exhausted, drained, frustrated. He was always so smiley. He just inspired us with his goofiness.

"He told us he was going to be a professional soccer player. He could play with a ball for hours, or he'd want to watch movies on our laptops. He reminded us why we were doing this."

Just over a year after their first trip, Opportunitas Aequa is expanding to include projects in Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania — not to mention Victoria, where they run free soccer camps for children.

On March 28, two members of Opportunitas Aequa are leaving for Rwanda, where they plan to make local contacts and pave the way for a trip in summer 2009.

"We're going to scope out areas to build fields, meet with organizations in Rwanda, and figure out the best way to apply our resources to locally established groups," said Hollett. "We're hoping to help out the people already on the ground over there."

Opportunitas Aequa was inspired by a passage in Roméo Dallaire's book *Shake Hands with the Devil*, where he observes a small group of children in a refugee camp playing with a clumped ball of dirt and twigs. Daillaire was the Canadian who commanded United Nations' troops in Rwanda.

"Amidst the chaos and horror in Rwanda, these kids were having an awesome time," said Hollet. "We try to keep coming back to that image."

Opportunitas Aequa is now working toward being registered as a federal charity. Currently they are a non-profit organization and rely on volunteers.

"We're always looking for volunteers. Here [in Victoria], or overseas," said Hollett.

They have started a flourishing online community with a Facebook group, a website, regular podcasts, and films about their projects.

"We want to show our donors in a really tangible way, what they're contributing," said Penn. "Someone donates a soccer ball, they can see a video of kid playing with it."

Their videos feature upbeat music and hopeful scenes of happy children.

"A lot of the media you see coming out of these countries is gloomy," said Penn. "We want to show people that there is hope, and there are interesting solutions to the world's problems."

For more information on Opportunitas Aequa, check out *www.oaprojects.org*.

Gamers get off the couch and onto bikes

Steve Carey

A pilot study at UVic showed that male couch potatoes will get off the sofa and get into shape — provided there's a video game in front of them.

The study, a joint effort between UVic and UBC, took 27 couch-potato males and stuck them each on a "GameBike" — a bike set up to be a video game controller. The study was conducted by Ryan Rhodes, an associate professor at UVic's School of Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education, and Darren Warburton from UBC.

The gamers in the study cycled for half an hour three times per week, for six weeks.

"We started with sedentary gamer males, thinking if we can't make changes there, we can't make changes anywhere," said Rhodes, who holds a PhD in behavioural medicine from the University of Alberta.

The GameBike was connected to a Playstation 2. Participants had a selection of seven driving games, with the most popular being *ATV Offroad Fury*.

"The game is a distraction — it's the same as playing sports. You're out there having fun, and as a consequence, you're getting in shape," said Rhodes. "The 'GameBike condition' is different than an actual cycling routine."

Rhodes pointed out that the participant's heart rate for a 30 minute ride on the GameBike was actually higher than the target heart rate. He attributes this difference to the actions involved with playing a video game.

"You turn the handlebars to turn, you pedal faster to go faster — that's how the GameBike works," said Rhodes.

After six weeks, participants showed greater fitness and greater affective attitude. Both of those factors improved attendance.

"From a psychology point of view, affective attitude — or enjoyment — is a great predictor [of whether or not someone will exercise], but it's difficult to change," said Rhodes.

Rhodes noted there are many physically interactive games on the market today, such as *Dance Dance Revolution* or Nintendo Wii games.

The psychology results will be published later this month in the Annals of Behavioural Medicine, and the fitness results have already been published in Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism.

Getting fit through gaming isn't free, though. The CatEye GameBike retails for US$400 and does not include a gaming system or games. GameBikes can be ordered online at *www.gamebike.com*.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Couch potatoes will exercise if there are video games involved.

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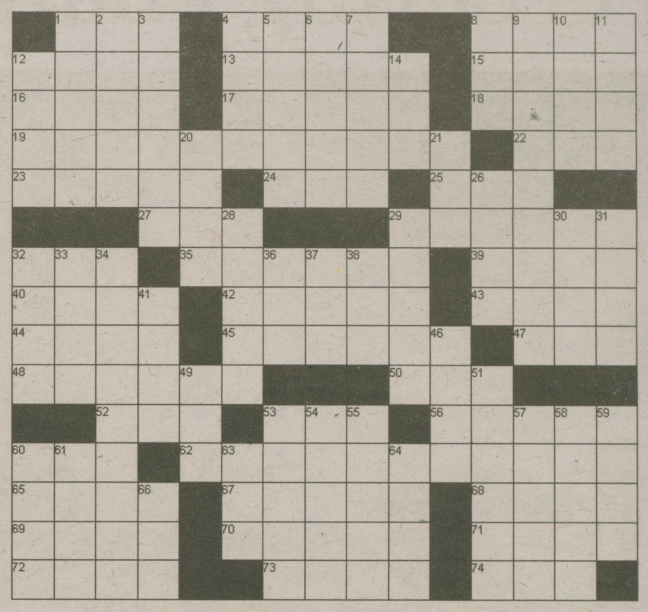
Diversions

The Ontarion Crossword by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)



Across

1 ____ 'n cheese
4 Toasty
8 Light fog
12 Nothing
13 Of a place
15 Feed the kitty
16 Cake's womb?
17 Manuscript sheet
18 Milton setting
19 Bureaucratic divisions
22 Downs' partner
23 Doorway
24 Sated hunger
25 Stricken
27 Evergreen shrub
29 Puzzle
32 Jacques' friend
35 ____ Leone
39 Food serving
40 Loafer adornment
42 Besmirch
43 Henry VIII wife
44 Plateau
45 Rainy day feature
47 Palmer's prop
48 Music pieces
50 Distance units (abbrev.)
52 Was in politics
53 From left field
56 Liquorice herb
60 Orwell antagonist
62 Behaviours
65 Poet's verses
67 Contradict
68 Very much (2 wds.)
69 Diner's list
70 Sell pups
71 Barbie's man, and others
72 Meat spread
73 Does math
74 Farm enclosure

Down

1 Connoisseur
2 Proficient
3 Mine bird
4 Drift
5 Olfactory stimulus
6 Lease, again
7 Portland's state
8 Actress West
9 Permissivel
10 Dance move
11 Macdonald bills
12 Interest
14 Land unit
20 Cereal grains
21 Eve's crime
26 Peru's capital
28 Traces
29 Like some birds
30 Horse feature
31 Sheltered
32 Pinnacle
33 Encounter
34 Rebel
36 Tall bird
37 Scarlet
38 Cool (sl.)
41 Behold (hyph.)
46 Dutch cheese
49 Story's last word
51 Creeps
53 Phantom of the ____
54 Parceled out
55 Baked
57 Buy
58 Cold-hearted
59 Approximates: (abbr.)
60 Splendor
61 Concept
63 Recede
64 Koppel and Kennedy
66 Actress Sarandon, to friends

solution, tips and computer programs at www.sudoku.com

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	8				3		6	
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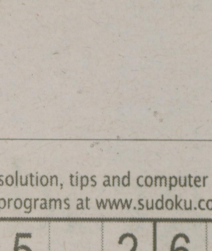
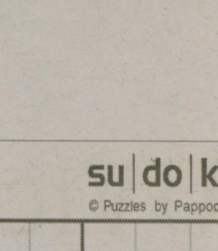
LOOK-ALIKES



John Dower, UVic biology professor



Philip Seymour Hoffman, actor

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For the answers to this week's crossword and sudoku puzzles, visit our website.

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ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

ENGINEERING STUDENTS' PROJECT PRESENTATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS
4 - 7 p.m.
Lobby of Engineering Laboratory Wing

Senior Electrical, Computer and Software Engineering students at UVic (44 students) will display and demonstrate their projects. Sponsored by the IEEE Victoria Section and the Department of ECE and open to public. Cash awards will be given to the best teams.

Fee: Free

Make Art Not War
All Day
Fine Arts Building

A week long art exhibit followed by a day of workshops and music. Art will be sold at silent auction and the proceeds will be donated to an indigenous resistance group called Sutikahl and to Burmese refugees. Art sale is on April 3 in Michel Pujol room, in the Student Union Building.

Fee: Free
Info: makeart.uvic@yahoo.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

The Blunting of the Keris: Reflections on the Malaysian General Elections 2008
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Murray and Anne Fraser, room 142

Malaysia's recent elections produced the most extraordinary results in 50 years of independence. What is the long-term significance in terms of politics, constitutionalism, race and religion, and how did the BN manage to fall after the high point of its last election result in 2004?

Fee: Free
Info: 721-7020

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Music - Take Flight
7 p.m.
University Centre

Presented by the University of Victoria's own Dance Company, this show is a collaborative expression of skill, style, and enthusiasm. The student's passion for dance and their experience in the disciplines shows in a captivating performance that includes jazz, hip hop, lyrical, and tap.

Fee:
Info: UVic Ticket Centre (250)721-8480.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Chamber Music Ensembles
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
MacLaurin, B125

Featuring String Ensembles from the studios of the Lafayette String Quartet and Yariv Aloni Phillip T. Young Recital Hall.

Fee: Admission by Donation
Info: Jill Michalski 721-7904

MONDAY, MARCH 31

INTERPRETED JOURNEY: An Art Education student exhibition.
7:30 p.m.
A. Wilf Johns gallery, MacLaurin

Come celebrate the end of the year with a free art-filled evening! Featuring the work of Vikki Agate, Christina Baker, Gamelle FitzGibbon, Meghan Griffiths, Carly Groot, Peggy Hubley, Laura Johnson, Amber Lamontagne, Amy Warner, Lisa Way, and Terri Winkler.

Fee: Free
Info: gamelle@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

P/op!
All Day Event
University Centre, B115

P/op! is a new exhibit featuring a selection of works by internationally renowned artists working in the pop, optical and abstract art genres. The intent is to showcase recent acquisitions by Harry Stanbridge, Eric Metcalfe, and Carl Beam, and to show the research potential of the permanent collection.

Fee: Free
Info: Aubrey Emlyn 721-6562

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

The Development of Japanese Woodblock Prints
1 p.m.
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Barry Till is the curator of Asian Art at the art gallery and is giving this lecture in conjunction with the exhibit, Sosaku Hanga: The Creative Prints of Japan, which he is curating and which will be at the gallery March 19-May 10, 2008. The lecture is free with admission to the art gallery. For further information on art gallery hours and admission fees, call 384-4101.

Fee: Free with gallery admission ($10)
Info: Judith Patt 478-7876.

LIVE CONCERTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Rock the Night Away Wharf Street Band @ Glen Lake Inn
8:30 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 6 p.m.

Wharf Street is Back! New Year-New Tunes - Victoria's Premier Classic Rock Band. Come out and Dance. (No Minors)

Fee: Free

COGS, COGS @ White Eagle Hall
7 - 11 p.m., doors at 6 p.m.

Twist contest, auction, hula hoop, and dancing. Limited Seating best get tickets asap. Tickets at Cat's Cradle, and the door. (No Minors).

Fee: $20

VOLUNTEER

Do you have what it takes be a St. John Ambulance Volunteer? We are now recruiting for the First Aid Brigade and the Therapy Dog program.

Our Volunteer First Aid Brigade is called out to hundreds of events in the Greater Victoria region every year. Our dedicated members come from all walks of life. What makes them unique is their advanced first aid training and community spirit. If you want to find out more about joining this dynamic group of volunteers call Laurie at 388-5505 X106 at St. John Ambulance.

Therapy Dogs: Do you have a cheerful personality and is your dog well mannered? St. John Ambulance is recruiting dogs and their owners for our Therapy Dog volunteer program. To find our more call Laurie at St. John Ambulance at 388-5505 X106.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to assist individuals with disabilities to get out and be active this Spring with Recreation Integration Victoria! By devoting as little as 1 hour a week, you have the opportunity to participate in an activity you enjoy while giving back to your community. To get involved or for more information, please call Shelann at 477-6314, ext. 15.

The Peer Helping Program, run through UVIC Counselling Services, is now recruiting volunteers for September 2008. For more information, please stop in at the Peer Helping Drop-In Centre at SUB B005 or visit http://www.peerhelping.uvic.ca/.

Volunteer for the Super Cities WALK for MS! Sunday, April 13th, Willows Beach Park in Oak Bay.

Leave your mark in the fight against Multiple Sclerosis. Volunteers are needed for a variety of fun and engaging positions. For information or to volunteer email Ashley.hodgins@mssociety.ca or call 388-6496.

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SUBMISSIONS

SUBMISSIONS WANTED! Send your tree stories and photos to: www.treewatchvictoria.blogspot.com – a site for local arborphiles and gardeners.

We map, describe, celebrate, paint, photograph, visit and watch over favourite trees. We appreciate their aesthetic, ecological and historical value, and encourage preservation of a healthy tree cover for Greater Victoria.

MEETINGS

Native Students' Union Semi- Annual General Meeting Wed. April 2nd at 4:30pm in B023. Bannock Bake-off beforehand at 2:30. Potluck following at 5:30. Your attendance is appreciated and anticipated!

To submit an event, please email: promo@martlet.ca by Monday

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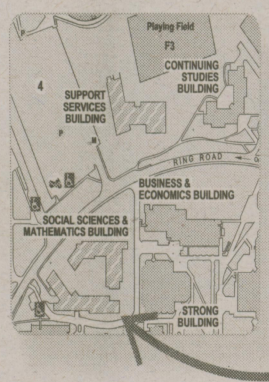

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24th, 2008

1. OOKPIKK
   Total Home Job (Independent) †
2. CRYSTAL CASTLES
   Crystal Castles (Last Gang) *
3 LADYHAWK
   Shots (Jagjaguwar)*
4 VARIOUS
   Aaargh! Annual Volume 3 (Aaargh!) †
5 WIDOW MAKER
   The Awful Truth (Sadiebird) *
6 DESTROYER
   Trouble In Dreams (Merge)*
7 VASHTI BUNYAN
   Some Things Just Stick In Your Mind: Singles And Demos 1964-1967 (DiCristina)
8 HUNGRY HILL
   Ride (CARIBOU) *
9 OLIVER SCHROER
   Smithers (Independent) *
10 NATHAN ROGERS
   True Stories (Halfway Cove Music) *

* Canadian artist † local artist

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CFUV is the University of Victoria's Campus/Community Radio Station. To find out more information about CFUV, including our programming schedule, volunteer information and complete charts, please visit our website at www.cfuv.uvic.ca.

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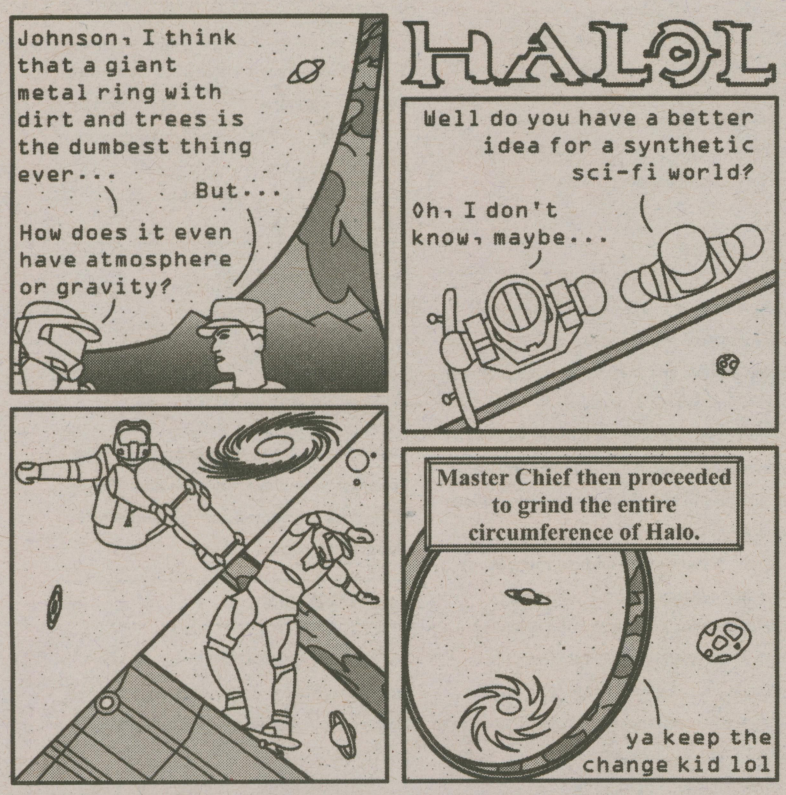
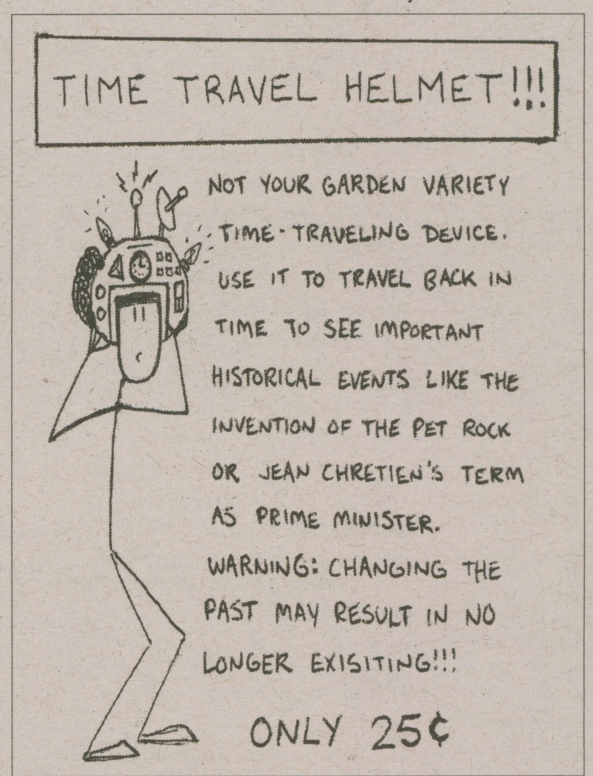
Comics



by Sean Behnsen



Life's Little Battles by Eamonn O'Connell

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Dishwasher Safe by Lucas Hansen

Red Rider Comic by Liam Kiemele

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Thief chimp

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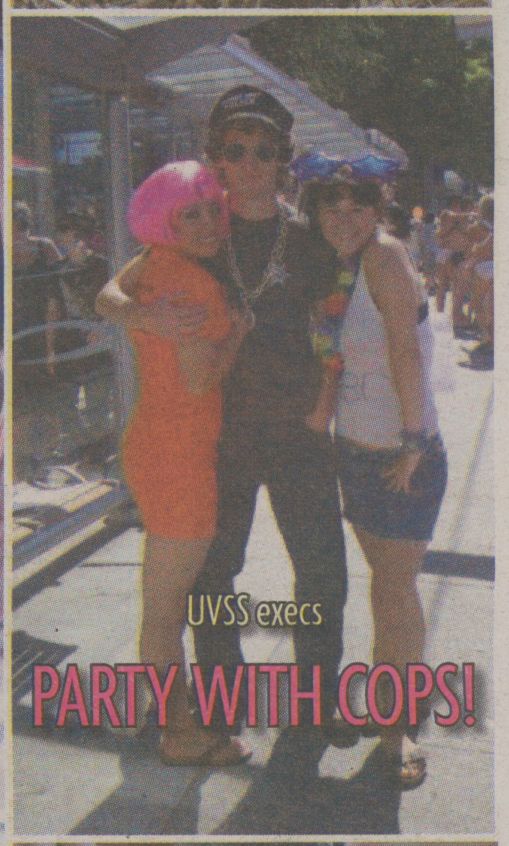
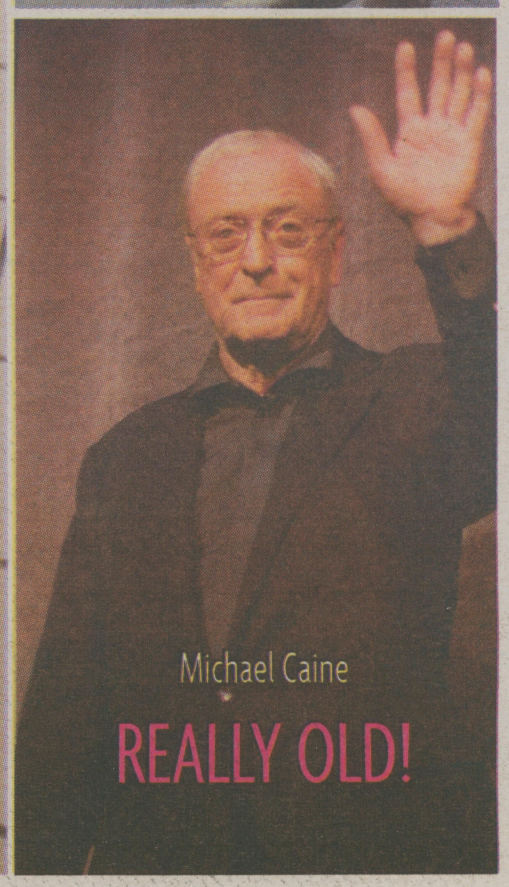


UVSS execs

PARTY WITH COPS!

Sumo champ

HAS BAD GAS!



Michael Caine

REALLY OLD!

CUCKOO FOR LULU YOGA-WEAR INCITES VIOLENCE

When Lululime founder Chad Walston announced the new fitness-wear manifesto "Kill fat before fat kills you" for his spring product line, he never thought it would inspire a rash of gang violence.

Walston swore the motto was solely meant to inspire the fight against the obesity epidemic and did not infer "Kill the Fatties," as was scrawled across the back of the UVic SUB last week.

Similar graffiti, accompanied by the Lululime logo, has been reported across the country and university campuses seem especially vulnerable.

The movement has recently escalated from graffiti to violence. Portly fine arts student Kerissa Dickie was a recent victim.

"They looked like average students, wearing pony tails and really tight yoga pants, but then they started to surround me in this Lululime logo-shaped circle of rage, chanting 'fatty' over and over," Dickie said. "When I wouldn't agree to follow them to the gym for an emergency fat-burning session of aerobic belly dancing, they stuck a logo sticker to my forehead, joined hands and started to chant. Then one of them kicked me in the shin and they all ran off. It was a blur — I was terrified."

At a press conference yesterday in Vancouver, Walston spoke out against the "cult-like" groups that have claimed responsibility for the attacks, announcing that the official tagline for the spring season has been changed to "Lunges are good."

But Vancouver-based psychiatrist Herbért Humperdynk thinks the change may have come too late.

He said we cannot assume everyone wearing the Lululime logo is an offender, but that people should be cautious of yoga folk just in case.

"These people are suffering," he said. "Think about it. Tight pants every day — they are time bombs waiting to go off."

Cathy Cuthard, social activist and co-owner of the San Diego Lululime store, made a public plea on the Oprah show last Wednesday.

"We have to do something before these attacks spread across America," Cuthard said.

She is calling for the development of a new sales system that will police all purchases of Lululime clothing throughout North America, possibly involving a satellite tracking system embedded into every logo.

Walston has yet to respond, but is expected to appear on next week's episode of Corner Gas to issue a statement.

- TAMARA KERBER ★

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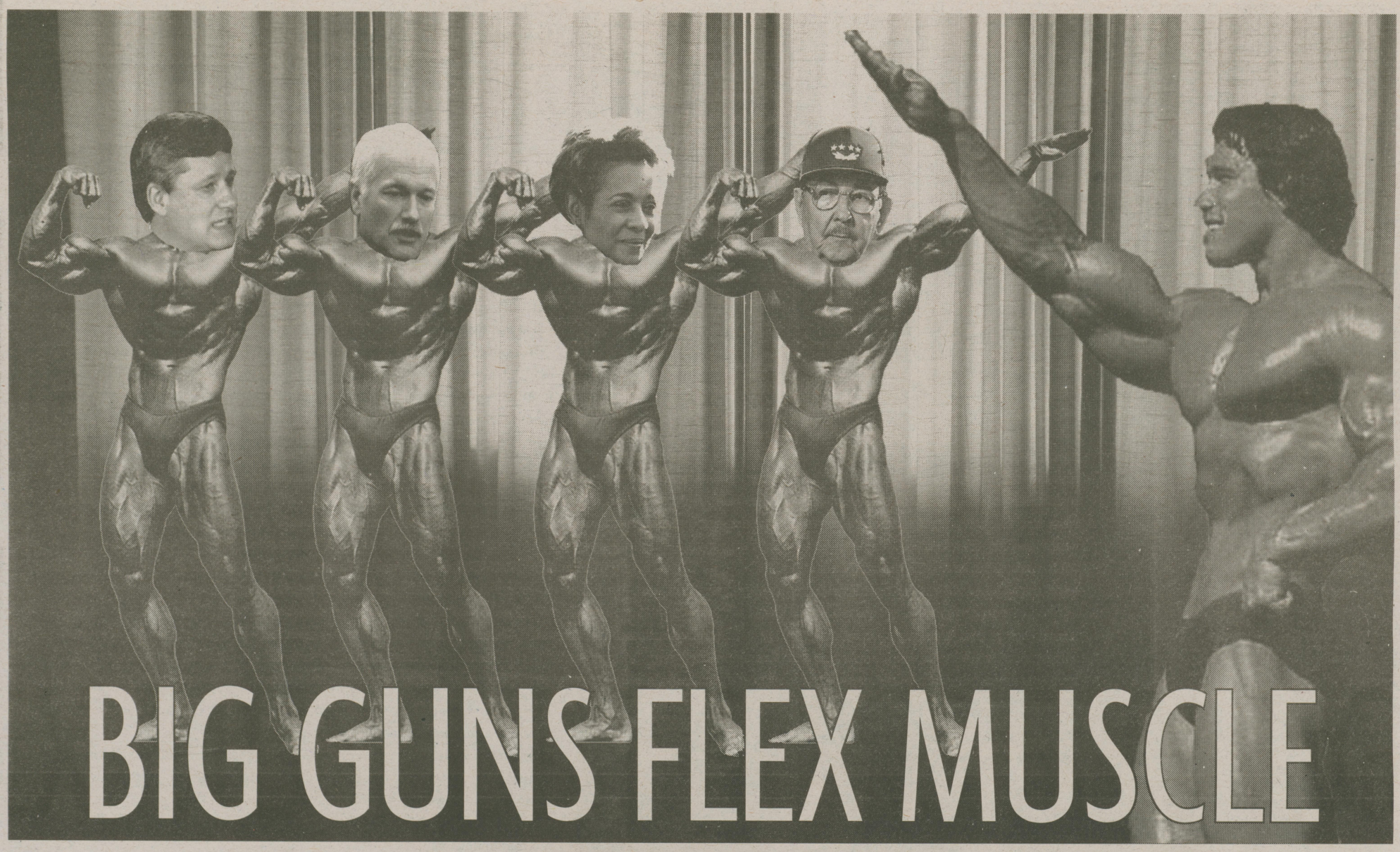

BIG GUNS FLEX MUSCLE ON SALTSPRING ISLAND!

Forty politicians competed for the Tightest Gun Control world championships last week at Saltspring Island, B.C. No firearms were involved.

The event, now in its third year, is aimed at giving hot, buff politicians a chance to strut their stuff.

"It's really unfair that for the majority of my tenure, I've had to keep these babies under wraps," said Governor General Michaëlle Jean. She finished second in the Biggest Pythons to Body Size Ratio category, beat out by Jack Layton, leader of the federal NDP party. Layton's rep stated he was unavailable to comment, due to an all-night "green cigarettes" celebration of the win.

B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell was also partying after his win of the Beer Guts Won't Form on These category. "A few strong ones can't keep me from hitting the road to success," he said.

"I'm glad to see the physique is being finally given its proper place in politics," said Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of California. "My campaign was based on [my huge pipes]. As you can see, it's the only real proof of leadership potential. This isn't biceps as usual. Judging by what voters want, I'll be back."

Stephen Harper, who placed last in the Strongest Leader category, felt he could still carry out the duties of Prime Minister, despite being soft around the edges.

"I am making a commitment to hard-working, gym-going Canadians that I will provide the kind of hard body you are asking for," said the defeated Harper in a press release following the competition. "While the Liberal candidate will lie about his dimensions, I will provide tax cuts for gym memberships."

Barack Obama took home the grand prize for Strongest Potential. "I told the boys, 'Yes we can,' " he stated, kissing the winning biceps. Other competitors included Raul Castro, President of Cuba, who placed first in the category Still Built After All These Years.

George Bush, president of the United States, refused to participate due to a misunderstanding about the meaning of the competition's title.

"I will not give in to any damn gun control laws, you hear?" he commented. "It's unpatriotic. I will preserve."

Fans of the event can only guess he meant his golf game will keep him in fighting shape for years to come.

- HARLOT ARROW ★

MAN WHO SCREAMED 'WHY ME?' REMEMBERS WHY

After catching his foot in a bear trap in his home, Langford resident Terry Meizinger's neighbours heard him scream "Why me?" In an exclusive interview, Meizinger recounts exactly why him.

"The wife, she came home with this old bear trap from one of those antique shops in town and sets the damn thing right in the living room by the fireplace. I mean, she calls it decorative," he recalled.

"So the thing's just sitting there all ornamental like. Anyway, a few nights later, I must've been drinking or something, because I drag the thing into the middle of the room and set the trap.

"I don't know what I was thinking. Probably just wanted to scare the dog with the thing. So anyway, I go into the kitchen to grab another pop, you know, and as I'm coming back into the room, well Christ if I just don't forget about that bear trap I just set, don't ask me how.

"Well, I step in the God damn thing and it bites me something fierce right in the leg. So I'm lying there cursing like a sailor when I eventually moaned something like, 'Christ, why me?' But I pretty much immediately realized why me and well, that's about it."

- JOHNNY LIMBO ★

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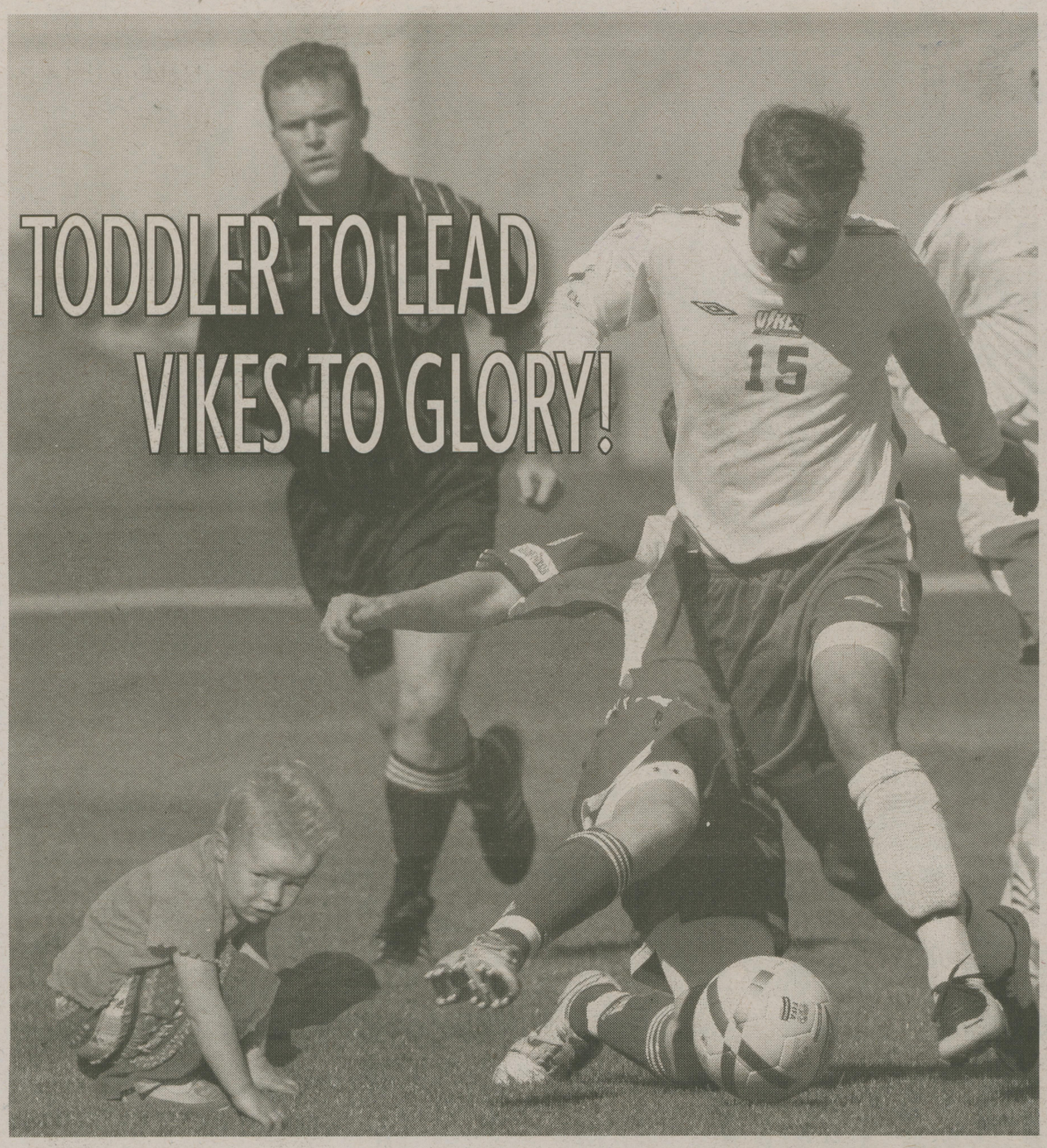


TODDLER TO LEAD VIKES TO GLORY!

The Vikes men's soccer team have recruited a new star for their exhibition matches — three-year-old Jason Sasquatch. Sasquatch is thought to have developed his amazing prowess with a soccer ball as the result of a genetic mutation caused by athlete's foot, which he acquired in utero.

As yet, no other children with the same mutation have been identified. But two medical experts expressed the controversial opinion that, to prevent another Sasquatch, athlete's foot in the general population should be aggressively treated.

"If this mutation becomes common, it will subvert childhood and the world of sports," said Dr. Peter Toews, president of the Podiatry Association of Canada. "We have no idea what other kind of jocks the mutation may produce. The only answer is to make athlete's foot a reportable disease with mandatory treatment until the infection disappears."

But not everyone is eager to find a cure.

"Jason has the most amazing pedal dexterity," said Vikes coach Brice Woodland. "Once he outgrows his temper tantrums, he will rival Pelé as the greatest footballer of all time. It would be a shame to prevent other players of this calibre from being born."

A recent article titled Tinea Pedis: An Emerging Social Health Risk, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal last month, explained the likely path athlete's foot takes to the uterus.

Caused by a similar fungus, athlete's foot (tinea pedis) and jock itch (tinea penis) may track from one area to the other. It has recently been shown that men with jock itch may also have infected sperm (tinea semen), and that unprotected sex may lead to infection of the uterus, and a risk of fetal genetic mutation (tinea fetus).

Toews and Dr. Anthony Cureall, chief scientist for the pharmaceutical company Pfizzier, producer of the best-selling athlete's foot remedy, authored the article. In it, they expressed the need for aggressive treatment, and called on Health Canada to name April 14, Sasquatch's birthday, Athlete's Foot Day.

"Everyone should have a foot check-up annually," said Cureall. "A set day would remind people to do it."

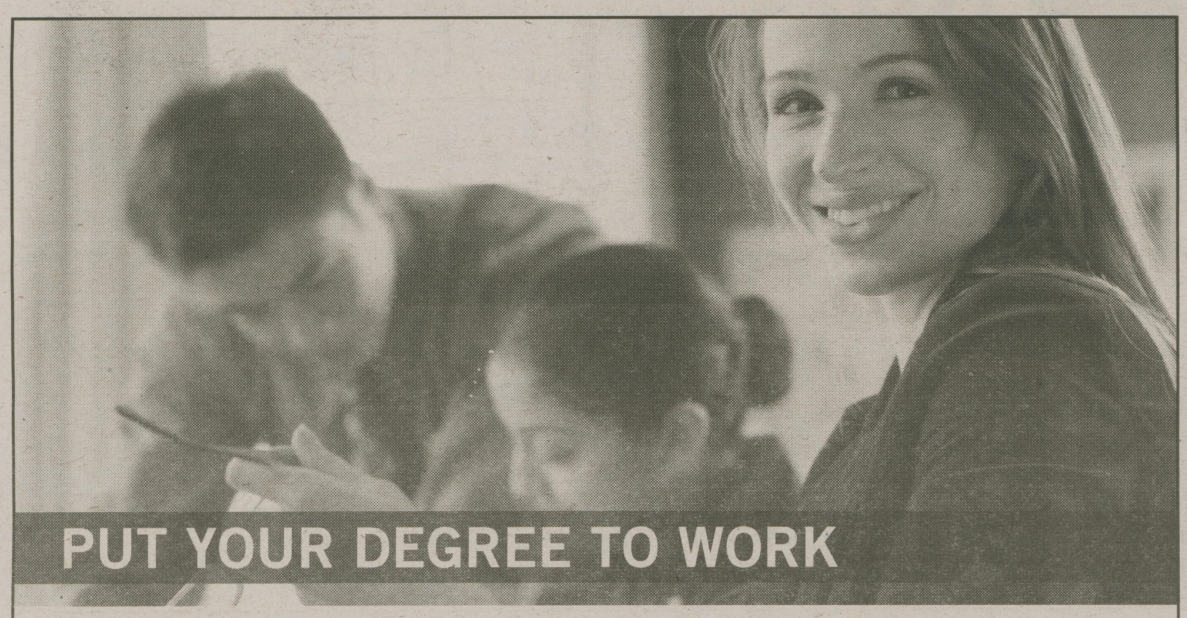
"Even if people do not have athlete's foot, they may well have bunions, corns, calluses, fallen arches, ingrown toenails, plantar warts, gait abnormalities, or something else we can fix," said Toews.

Both Toews and Cureall denied any conflict of interest in making their recommendations.

"I have no intention of being treated. I hope that my next child is like Jason," said Harry Sasquatch, Jason's father. "When he can read, Jason will get an athletics scholarship to UVic, and will be able to play properly for the Vikes. If we can get him reading soon, he should graduate before he is 10. We will have very few expenses and Jason will have 50 years as a world class athlete."

Neither the Office of the Registrar nor the President's Office replied to a request for an interview.

– DIM SUM ★



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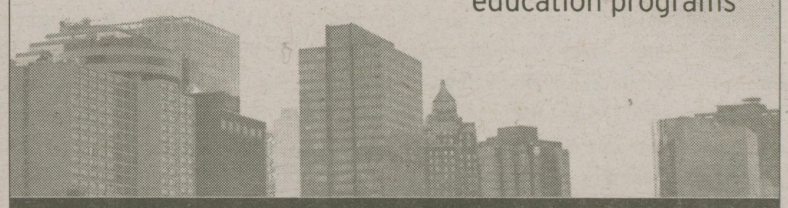

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WEI SMORE PHOTO

RABBITS PLAN ATTACK!

UVic is known for its rabbits, but a recent study warns they're not all cute and carefree.

"I started a simple study on the rabbit population," said biology student Claire Lepane. "I focused on birth rates, death rates, pet abandonment, and a category for other." It was that 'other' that became most significant. Lepane was due to graduate, but her work wasn't done.

"I knew I was on to something bigger than a class report, so I sabotaged myself, faked sick, and prolonged my studies."

Although the birth rate for rabbits is very low and pet abandonment has dwindled to less than five per cent in recent years, the campus rabbit population is growing at a monstrous rate.

"You'll notice every Wednesday there are more rabbits," Lepane said. "I needed to find out why."

Lepane sold her car and her (then) boyfriend's car to purchase a Meerkat 2000 Spy, a camera used in a popular television show that studies the underground living of meerkats, small African mongooses. Lepane thought she could drive the camera down a rabbit hole and study their birthing tactics. What she found was something else entirely.

"I was test driving the Meerkat 2000 Spy down a rabbit hole near the Cornett building," Lepane said, "but it just kept going. I drove on until suddenly I was in what looked like a classroom, full of rabbits."

Unfortunately, Lepane was unable to get footage of the world.

"A large rabbit pointed at me — I think he was white but the night vision makes everything green," explained Lepane. "Then there was a rush of commotion. Hundreds of rabbits suddenly filling the frame and then nothing. Black."

Lepane pulled the camera out of the ground to find that something had chewed the wires at the end of the line and the camera itself was gone.

"$18,000 down the toilet," said Lepane.

But the biology student wasn't discouraged for long. She enlisted engineering student and friend Max Surcher to build another camera. Together they tested it down the same rabbit hole, but found nothing.

"Don't go looking down the same rabbit hole twice," said Surcher.

But Lepane's research had a breakthrough late last year, when she and Surcher discovered the Cornett building had a basement when it was completed in 1966. Two years later, the basement was considered unsafe and filled in.

"There are no visible entryways to the basement from our perspective," said Surcher. "But we need doors."

Lepane believes the rabbits meet underground in the abandoned basement of the Cornett — but why?

"They see us as a threat," Lepane said. "The student population is growing annually and building new buildings that dig up rabbit ground."

She believes the rabbits are preparing for an attack on students.

"They are training us by allowing us to feed them," Lepane said.

She also believes they are building tunnels into each building to help with the surprise. And the Wednesday rush?

"They send out seagulls to scout for more rabbits on the Island. They're all moving onto campus grounds," she said. "Soon the entire South Vancouver Island rabbit population will be waiting on campus, underground, to attack."

Lepane will be here when that day comes, to help mediate or fight if it comes down to it.

-SIRIUS CAPEGOAT ★

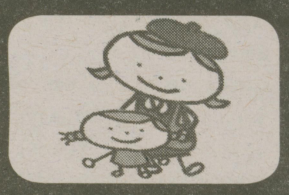
MERCY!

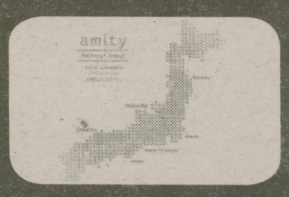
After a bout of mean woman blues over a pretty woman, Ryan Bilson was falling and crying and hurtin' — until he went uptown for some soup and discovered a miracle in his toast.

"I was running scared, because, you know, love hurts, and I was just about to smother some butter, and then I saw him," said Bilson. "Roy was staring out at me, well he was wearing Ray Bans and I couldn't see his eyes, but I know he was staring at me and saying, 'Remember the good.'"

Bilson is the first to ever claim to see Roy Orbison charred into his breakfast, though reports earlier this year include images of Prince in a pancake. Bilson said the sighting staved off his heartache, which he originally acquired in Memphis, Tennessee by the blue bayou.

Teach English to Children in Japan!





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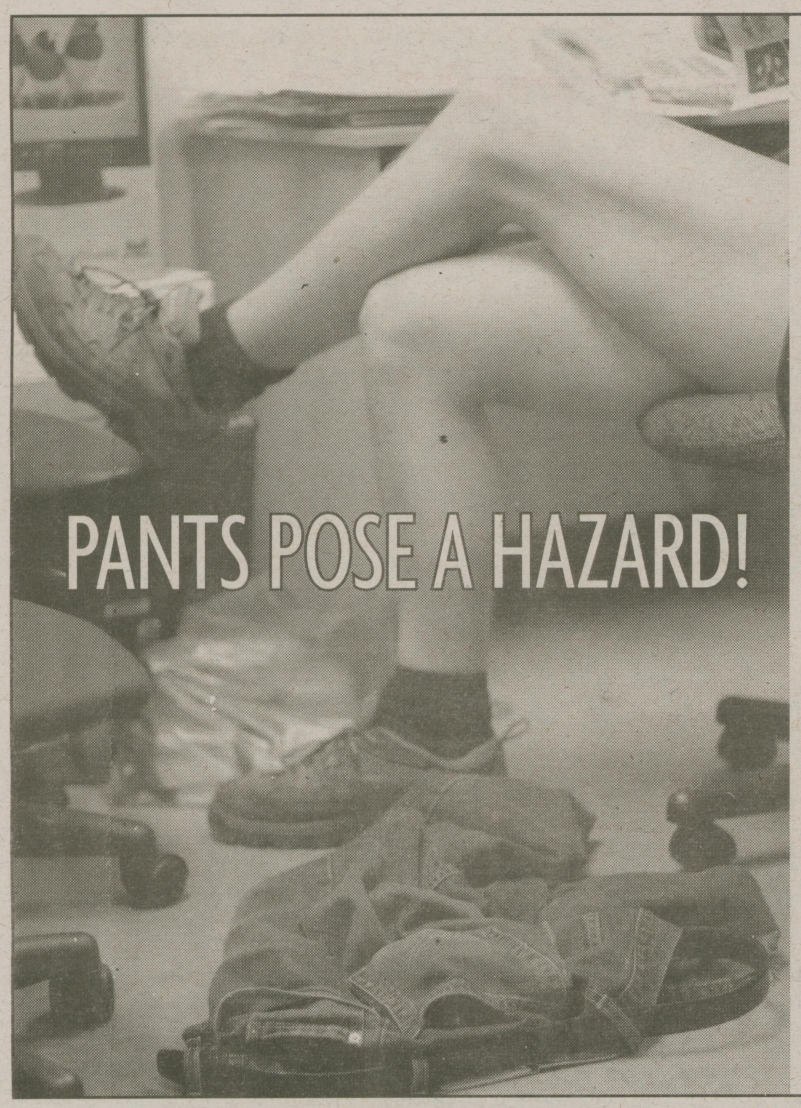


PANTS POSE A HAZARD!

UVic medical researchers have found trace amounts of a new carcinogen in a random sample of several pairs of pants. The research team, headed by UVic oncologist Dr. Bradely Whitaker, says the carcinogen, which the team has coded Pantaloon 6, appears to be specific to trousers.

"If our findings are typical of other pairs of pants, then we could have a serious health problem on our hands. Or in our pants," said Whitaker.

The carcinogen appears to bond to cotton, wool and other fibres found in pants and seep into the legs and groin area over the span of a few hours. Whitaker noted that the carcinogen does not appear to be specific to any style, cut or length of jeans, corduroys, khakis or cargo pants.

"It's inexplicable!" said Whitaker.

Other researchers question the results of Whitaker's study, however. Dr. Howard Plimpton, a UBC oncologist, is convinced the study overlooked many test subjects. "Where is the analysis on shorts? On short-pants? On shants? The answer is that there is none," he said in a phone interview. "This leads us to question, therefore, the conclusions of the study, that all pants are carcinogenic. More research needs to be done." When asked if he was wearing pants, Plimpton answered, "Mind your own business."

Media representatives for Regardez Pantz Inc., the world's largest producer of pants, would not comment directly on the study, but released a statement on Monday.

"Pants are an essential item of clothing, and Regardez Pantz is a proud producer of quality pants," the statement said. "We look forward to getting people into our pants for years to come."

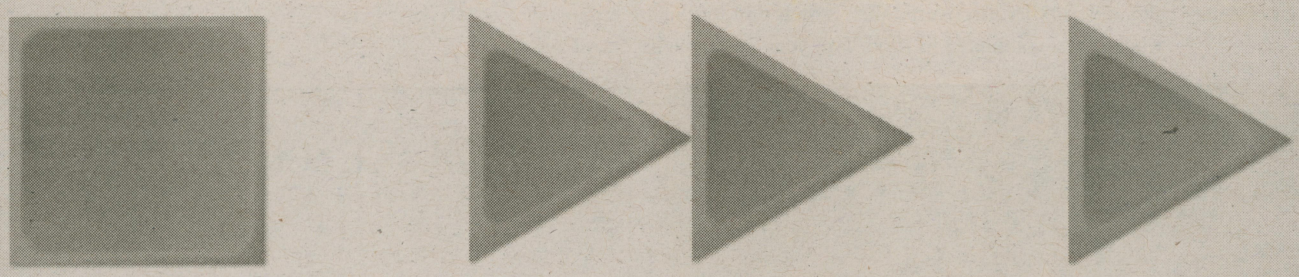
The study also found no traces of Pantaloon 6 in skirts, dresses or underwear. Whitaker said this is more proof that the carcinogen is slacks-specific.

"As a health professional, I would recommend a moratorium on pants until more research comes in, despite what the economists and big-pants interests are saying. This is a health issue first and foremost."

If the study passes peer review, Whitaker hopes the issue will be launched into public awareness.

"There are too many people at risk to ignore this issue," he said. "Clowns are especially at risk. They have such enormous pants."

- ACNE NERDS PERSON ★



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ANGELINA JOLIE GIVES BACK POVERTY

Angelina Jolie has seen the depths of human suffering and desolation. She has witnessed first hand the tragic toll of poverty, famine and war. She has just returned from a six-month tour of sub-Saharan Africa and, in an exclusive interview with The Stab, tells us how she is "totally inspired."

Jolie is no ordinary movie star. She has received three Golden Globes, two Screen Actors Guild Awards and an Academy Award. But what sets her apart from other A-list celebs is just how much she gives a shit. Jolie is a Goodwill Ambassador to the UN and has saved "like hundreds" of African villages.

"I saw an old man die in the street. I saw his barren, exposed, ribs gently heave as his depraved lungs struggled to draw in his last breath. I watched his weathered eyes flicker as the last spark of his life faded slowly below their horizon. I watched this, and I thought to myself, 'Oh My God. I cannot believe I'm getting this on camera.'"

Jolie was moved by the experience. She said she was thankful for her satellite Blueberry, which allowed her to instantaneously upload the "deeply inspirational" footage onto her blog.

It is sights like that, Jolie claims, which have inspired her to be the person she is today.

"Before I saw African-grade poverty, I was lost. I had no direction, no purpose. I didn't own a single orphan," she said. "The trip was character-building. It makes for great conversation, and it looks sensational on resumes."

Though Jolie is thankful for her encounters with real-life misery and economic collapse, she realizes that not everyone is so fortunate.

"Unfortunately, the plain truth is that there is not nearly enough absolute poverty in Western society. Relative poverty is just not the same. It's like comparing apples to no apples."

It is for this reason that Jolie has unveiled her latest humanitarian venture: Project for Real and Sustainable Poverty. It aims to bring absolute poverty within the grasp of the average Canadian student and socialite by establishing small, sustainable, deeply impoverished, third-world-themed ghettos within 100 miles of every major city.

No longer will starvation, civil strife and endemic disease be only for the privileged and well-to-do. Thanks to Jolie, poverty will soon be available for everybody.

The project, slated to get underway by 2010, is 100 per cent environmentally sound. All poverty will be certified organic and entirely homegrown. No alien species of poverty will be introduced to the North American environment.

In Canada, more than 10 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. Jolie believes this is fantastic, but thinks we can still do better.

These 10 per cent, while poor, are not up to the global standard, she said. They are also too dispersed and spread out. Without full-scale slums and outbreaks of the bubonic plague, the Canadian poor are not having the impact that they should.

With a little help from Jolie, Canadian poverty might just realize its wildest dreams yet.

- BILL BASIL ★

CLAUS & UVSS CATFIGHT!

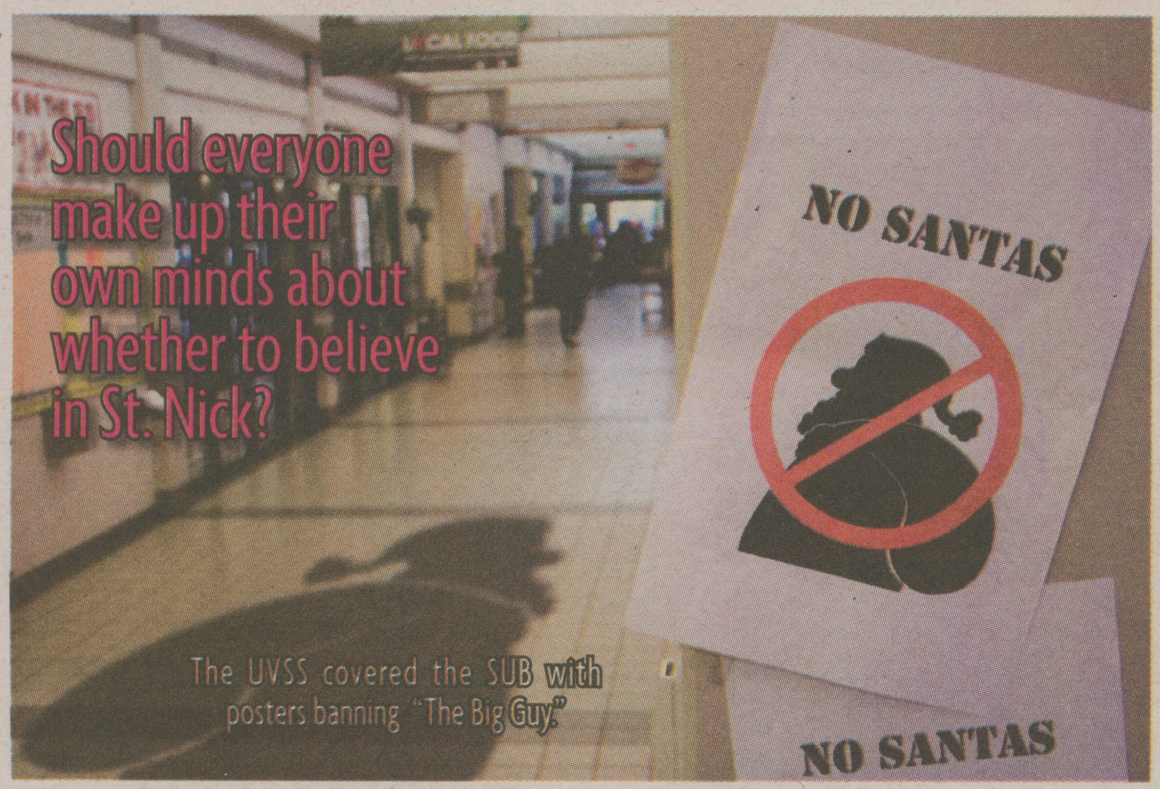
Santa Claus has been banned from recruiting young Christians in the SUB.

UVic Students' Society (UVSS) chairperson Stacy Crow broke a 6-6 deadlock at a recent board meeting by voting that the jolly fat man should be banned from the SUB.

The ban means that Claus will be unable to attend the annual winter fair held in the SUB each December. The bearded fatty made an appearance at last year's fair, where he recruited young Christians to join him in an initiative he calls "Christmas."

"If the policy would be implemented as a ban, ho ho ho, I would ask the board to consider that this could be a very slippery slope, and one that I, ho ho ho, don't believe is in the spirit of a university campus," Claus told the board in a statement. He was unable to make the meeting as one of his reindeer is battling a serious illness.

"I would suggest, ho ho ho, that banning any person from campus, if they are operating in accordance with Canadian law and university policy, ho ho ho, is an infringement on the rights of students to make their own decisions about whether or not to sit on my knee."



The UVSS covered the SUB with posters banning "The Big Guy."

SANTA DISSED

Jim Marnier from Students Against Christmas spoke against Claus recruiting. He agreed that any law-abiding group should be allowed on campus, but that the obese gifter committed illegal acts.

"Canada has signed on to the Geneva Convention. It's ratified these," Marnier said. "Claus is violating those laws, and it doesn't take a legal expert to figure that out."

Marnier accused the hefty pedophile of being a torturous fraud, saying the benevolent lard-ass promised him a G.I. Joe last year, but instead brought him a Gymnastic Diva Barbie.

"He's a liar," Marnier said. "He does not tell the truth and he manipulates us."

Shawn Harnett, a student in the gallery, challenged Marnier's assertion that Claus is guilty of fraud.

"Has Claus actually been convicted of fraud?" Harnett asked.

"He doesn't tell us," replied Marnier, who said there were many accounts of children waiting all night for the reindeer rancher, only to have him not show up, resulting in years of torturous psychological trauma. "Convicted or not, torturing children is a war crime."

Director-at-large Catherine Camry said it was important to ban Claus from recruiting because some students are ignorant about the overweight elder.

"A lot of students don't know about Claus and the disappointment he causes," she said. "We have to make this decision for students."

SPEEDY DISSENTER

Dick Shark was the lone dissenter from the Team Speedy slate, which was largely in favour of a ban.

"I believe that Claus is a necessary part of our lives," he said. "I sat on his knee at one point myself and asked for money — he's a good source of financial aid."

Director-at-large Ned Pushman spoke against the bearded list-keeper during the debate.

"I consider myself well read on Santa Claus," said Pushman, who boasted he has read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *A Christmas Carol* — he even saw *Bad Santa*. "I believe that Santa Claus is operating to the detriment of children."

But director-at-large Maurine Carbridge said that students should be able to make up their own mind about whether to believe in Claus.

"I think everyone deserves to make their own decisions," Carbridge said. "I don't think it's our place to tell them who can and can't come."

Some of her colleagues disagreed.

"I'm all for students having open debate, but the point is that you can't have a debate if you're not fully informed," said director of academics Karen Begs. "It's time to tell our children — I mean our constituents — the truth about Santa Claus."

-AVIDA FISHSTICKS ★

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SEVENTY-THREE DIE IN SINGLE CLOWN-CAR CRASH

In the greatest circus related tragedy since Cannonball Pizano was shot into the tiger cage, 73 clowns perished in a single car crash yesterday morning after their vehicle collided with a baker's truck full of cream pies.

Police speculate casualties may not have been so great had more than 36 of the passengers been wearing their seatbelts. Forensics specialists are speculating the crash might have been caused by the gas pedal getting jammed, thanks to the driver's size 16 feet. And while many people are aware of the dangers of cellphone use while driving, police are now cautioning the public against the use of squeaky horns while behind the wheel, reminding drivers it can pose a dangerous distraction.

Forty-three Bozos and 29 Bonkers will be greatly missed by their families, friends and peers, as well as overly predictable birthday parties around the world. The unpopular Dennis the Clown also perished.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Save-a-clown fund through the Biff and Zowie "Hearts for Hyperactivity" charity by phone.

-JOHNNY LIMBO ★

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ALMIGHTY APOLOGIZES FOR CHRISTIAN ROCK MUSIC

In a rare show of repentance, the Lord Almighty apologized yesterday for the proliferation of Christian rock bands, saying he sincerely regrets that so much awful music has been played in his name.

"I am truly sorry," said God. "I thought I only endowed these musicians with enough talent to play 'Kumbaya' at a Christian fellowship retreat — I didn't think they would try and make a career out of it.

"It's not that I'm against music that celebrates Me. I mean, I like Handel's Messiah and those Southern Baptists have some pretty soulful gospel. But this new stuff is friggin' terrible."

He explained his recent apology was prompted by his recent attendance of a Sufjan Stevens concert.

"Sure, I've been aware of Christian rock for years, but I never really heard much. The other night, St. Peter dragged me to this concert and I'm like, 'That's what Christian rock is? Jesus, I thought it'd sound more like Zeppelin.'"

Prior to leaving the scheduled news conference to appear at a Benny Hinn convention, God again reiterated his stance on Christian rock.

"I don't care if it's Lifehouse, Disciple, or Everyday Sunday — it's really not my buzz. And, well, I suppose it was more of a film, but I thought Jesus Christ Superstar was pretty bad."

-JOHNNY LIMBO ★

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